

LINDSAY E. YOUNG

Associate Professor of Communication

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Health communication
Social networks/network science
Sexual and gender minority health
Social determinants of health
Digital epidemiology
Social media & health
Health misinformation

EDUCATION

2009-2014	Northwestern University PhD in Media, Technology, and Society Department of Communication Studies Co-Advisors: Dr. Noshir Contractor and Dr. Paul Leonardi
2004-2006	Drexel University M.S. in Science Communications Department of Culture and Communication Advisor: Dr. Robert Brulle
1996-2000	American University B.A. in Public Communication, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> School of Communication

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

July 2026 – Present	University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism Director of Doctoral Studies
May 2026 – Present	University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism Associate Professor
Aug 2020 – May 2026	University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism Assistant Professor
Feb 2023 - Present	Keck School of Medicine at USC, Department of Population and Public Health Sciences Joint Courtesy Appointment
Aug 2014 – July 2020	University of Chicago, Department of Medicine, Chicago Center for HIV Elimination Postdoctoral Scholar

Center Affiliations

Aug 2023 – Present	Co-Director, Annenberg Networks Network (ANN) Research Group USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
Aug 2023 – Present	Associate Director, Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society USC Viterbi School of Engineering and Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work

Aug 2024 – Present	Co-Chair, Community Engagement & Dissemination Committee, Institute for Addiction Science Keck School of Medicine at USC
Aug 2020 – Present	Faculty Member, Institute for Addiction Science Keck School of Medicine at USC
Aug 2020 – Present	Faculty Member, Center for Applied Network Analysis (CANA) Department of Population and Public Health Sciences, Keck School of Medicine at USC

AWARDS AND DISTINCTIONS

2023	<i>Top Paper Award</i> , Health Communication Division, National Communication Association
2020	<i>Fellow</i> , Health Disparities Research Institute (HDRI), National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities
2020	<i>Fellow</i> , Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences (SICSS), Duke University
2019	<i>Fellow</i> , NIH OBSSR Summer Institute for Randomized Behavioral Clinical Trials
2018	<i>Postdoctoral Fellow</i> , USC Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society (CAIS)
2017	<i>Fellow</i> , Duke Social Networks and Health Workshop
2014	<i>Top Student Paper Award</i> , Organizational Communication Division, National Communication Association
2014	<i>Jaharis Family Fellowship</i> , School of Communication, Northwestern University
2012	<i>Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship</i> , School of Communication, Northwestern University
2009	<i>Graduate Fellowship</i> , The Graduate School, Northwestern University
2006	<i>Top Paper Award</i> , Environmental Communication Section, National Communication Association
2006	<i>Best Graduate Research Award</i> , Drexel Student Research Days Conference, Drexel University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

* denotes a student/mentee, underline denotes lead author(s)

Journals or Proceedings

- *Kim, J.Y., Young, L.E., *Kim, D., *Curry, M., *Wang, Z., Twyman, M., & Yang, A. (2026). Interpersonal communication environments and counterarguing intentions toward climate misinformation: The role of personal climate discussion networks, norms, and attitudes. *Environment & Behavior*, X(X), xxx-xxx. (Accepted on September 17, 2026).
- *Hotchkiss, M., Young, L.E., Oh, H., Prindle, J., Rice, E., & Blois, J.R. (2026). Employment Insecurity and Insurance Status among a Nationally Representative Sample of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Adults. *Journal of the Society for Social Work and Research*, X(X), xxx-xxx. <https://doi.org/10.1086/743750>
- Young, L.E., Harlow, A.F., Krueger, E.A. & Barrington-Trimis J. (2026). Depressed and anxious together: Decomposing the within- and between-subjects components of the clustering of internalizing symptoms in adolescent friendship networks. *SSM - Mental Health*, 10, 100695. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmmh.2026.100695>
- *Choi, E.-C. and Young, L.E. (2026). Who you know, what you believe, what you share: Personal networks and health misinformation susceptibility. *Social Networks*, 87, 163–172. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2026.06.008>
- *Jang, E., Nan, Y., Chang, H.-C. & Young, L.E. (2026). Disentangling the network structure of online social support: A multilayer network analysis of the twitter long COVID community. *Health Communication*, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2026.2672056>
- *Wang, Z., *Zhou, S., Wang, J., Zhu, J., *Kim, D., *Jung, B., *Kim, J. Y., Balasubramanian, A., Zou, V., & Young, L. E. (2026). Protest Images and Interaction Networks Within Affective Publics during the 2024 South Korean Martial Law Crisis. *Computational Communication Research*, 8(3), 1-24. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.5117/CCR2026.3.3.WANG>
- *Choi, E. C., Young, L. E., & Ferrara, E. (2026). Overstating attitudes, ignoring networks: LLM biases in simulating misinformation susceptibility. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, 20(1), xxx-xxx

- Rice, E. and Young, L.E. (2025). AI-Augmented prevention science needs community-engaged prevention science: A framework for greater accountability. *Prevention Science* (Published online on September 24, 2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11121-025-01842-7>
- Authors are equal contributing authors.
- Shrader, C.-H., Duncan, D. T., Driver, R., Arroyo-Flores, J. G., Coudray, M. S., Moody, R., Chen, Y.-T., Skaathun, B., Young, L.E., Del Vecchio, N., Fujimoto, K., Knox, J. R., Kanamori, M., & Schneider, J. A. (2025). Investigating social network peer effects on HIV care engagement using a fuzzy-like matching approach: Cross-sectional secondary analysis of the N2 cohort study. *JMIR Public Health and Surveillance*, 11, e64497-e64497. <https://doi.org/10.2196/64497>
- *Wilson, E., Young, L.E. & Stevens, R. (2025). Multi-level sources of strength and school-based racial discrimination: competing factors associated with mental health among African American college students. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*, 31(4), 699–710. <https://doi.org/10.1037/cdp0000703>.
- Authors Wilson and Young are equal contributing lead authors
- Young, L.E. (2024). Effects of peer exposure on condom use and sexual health communication in an online social network among Black sexual minority men. *Health Communication*, 39(12), 2419-2430. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2258309>
- Harlow A.F., Liu F, Young L.E., Coreas S.I., Rahman T., Unger J.B., Leventhal A.M., Barrington-Trimis J.L., Krueger E.A. (2024). Sexual and gender identity disparities in nicotine and tobacco use susceptibility and prevalence: Disaggregating emerging identities among adolescents from California, USA. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 26, 203-211. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntad131>
- Young, L.E., *Nan, Y., *Jang, E., & Stevens, R. (2023). Digital epidemiological approaches in HIV research: A scoping methodological review. *Current HIV/AIDS Reports*, 20, 470–480. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11904-023-00673-x>
- Orta Portilla, G.A., Fletcher, J.B., Young, L.E., and Klausner, J.D. (2023). Virtual avatars as a new tool for HIV prevention among men who have sex with men: A narrative review. *mHealth*, 9, 1-15. <https://doi.org/10.21037/mhealth-22-33>
- Tran, N., Nishi, A., Young, L.E., Endo, A., Cumberland, W.G., Young, S.D. (2023). The role of perceived health in retention disparity: A HIV-testing-related behavioral intervention among African American and Latinx men who have sex with men in the United States. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 33, 102195-102195, Article 102195. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2023.102195>
- *Phelps, A., *Sparks, P.L., de la Haye, K., and Young, L.E. (2023). Social contextual predictors of covid-19 vaccine acceptance: A time-to-first-dose analysis. *Health Psychology*, 42(4), 276-284. <https://doi.org/10.1037/hea0001287>
- Authors Phelps, Sparks, and Young are equal contributing lead authors; author Young is corresponding author
- Young, L.E., *Tang, J.L., Schneider, J.A. (2023). Demographic and HIV Status Diversities as Mechanisms of Social Integration and Segregation Among Black Sexual and Gender Minorities Enrolled in a Community-Based Social Network Intervention. *Social Networks*, 73, 51-61. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2022.12.006>
- Young, L.E., *Tang, J.L. & *Nan, Y. (2022). Social Media Communication and Network Correlates of HIV Infection and Transmission Risks among Black Sexual Minority Men: Cross-sectional Digital Epidemiology Study. *JMIR Formative Research* 6(10), e37982. <https://doi.org/10.2196/37982>
- Krueger, E.A., Repati, M.L., Harlow, A.F., Unger, J.B., Lee, J.O., Pedersen, E.R., Conn, B.M., Wong, C., Young, L.E., Barrington-Trimis, J.L., Leventhal, A.M. (2022). Changes in sexual identity and substance use during young adulthood. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 241, 109674. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109674>
- Young, L.E., *Baird, A., and Schneider, J.A. (2022). Diagnosing PrEP communication self-efficacy in a community-based peer leader intervention for Black sexual minority men. *AIDS and Behavior*, 26 (11), 3747-3760. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-022-03704-7>
- Schnarrs, P.W., Bond, M., Stone, A. L., Salcido, R., Young, L.E., Dean, J., & Grigsby, T. J. (2022). The Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Utilization of Different HIV Testing Strategies Among Young Men Who Have Sex with Men in Texas. *AIDS and Behavior*, 26(11), 3642-3653. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-022-03690-w>
- *Wang, L., Young, L.E., Miller, L. (2021). The Structure of Social Support in Confidant Networks: Implications for Depression. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(16), 8388-8388, Article 8388. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18168388>

- Young, L.E.** and Schneider, J.A. (2021). The Co-evolution of Network Structure and PrEP Adoption among a Large Cohort of PrEP Peer Leaders: Implications for Intervention Evaluation and Community Capacity-Building. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(11), 6051-6051, Article 6051. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18116051>
- Young, L.E.** and Fujimoto, K. (2021). The Co-evolution of Online Social Networks and Syphilis Incidence among Young Black Men Who have Sex with Men. *Social Science & Medicine*, 272, 13764-113764. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.113764>
- Young, L.E.**, *Sidnam-Mauch, E., Twyman, M., *Wang, L., *Xu, J. J., Sargent, M., Valente, T. W., Ferrara, E., Fulk, J., & Monge, P. (2021). Disrupting the COVID-19 misinfodemic with network interventions: Network solutions for network problems. *American Journal of Public Health*, 111(3), 514-519. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2020.306063>
- Schneider, J.A.**, **Young, L.E.**, Ramachandran, A., Michaels, S., Cohen, H., Robinson, I., Alon, L., Khanna, A., Hill, B., Nakasone, S., Pierce, M., Bouris, A., Valente, T., Ferreira, M., Schumm, P. for the PrEP Chicago Network Intervention team (2021). A pragmatic randomized controlled trial to accelerate the diffusion of pre-exposure prophylaxis. *J Acquir Immune Defic Syndr*. 86(1), 31-37. <https://doi.org/10.1097/qai.0000000000002518>
- Young, L.E.**, Soliz, S., *Xu, J-J., & Young, S.D. (2020). A review of social media analytic tools and their applications to evaluate activity and engagement in online sexual health interventions. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 19, 101158-101158, Article 101158. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pmedr.2020.101158>
- Pagkas-Bather, J.**, **Young, L.E.**, Chen, Y.-T., & Schneider, J.A. (2020). Social network interventions for HIV transmission elimination. *Current HIV/AIDS Reports*, 17(5), 450-457. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11904-020-00524-z>
- Young, L.E.**, Ramachandran, A., Schumm, L.P., Khanna, A.S., & Schneider, J.A. (2020). The potential of online social networking data for augmenting the study of high-risk personal networks among young men who have sex with men at-risk for HIV. *Social Networks*, 63, 201-212. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.06.003>
- Young, L.E.**, Mayaud, J., Suen, S-C., Tambe, M., & Rice, E. (2020). Modeling the dynamism of HIV information diffusion in multiplex networks of homeless youth. *Social Networks*, 63, 112-121. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socnet.2020.06.001>
- ***Walsh, T.**, Schneider J.A, Ardestani B-M., & **Young, L.E.** (2020). Individual and social network characteristics associated with peer change agent engagement and impact in a PrEP for prevention intervention. *AIDS and Behavior*, 24(12), 3385-3394. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-020-02911-4>
- Authors Walsh and Young are equal contributing lead authors
- Nguyen, A.**, **Young, L.E.**, Beymer, M., & Suen, S-C (2020). Developing targeted HIV risk predictors for young Black men who have sex with men: A two-city comparative study. *International Journal of STD & AIDS*, 31(4), 335-344. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0956462419886472>
- Young, L.E.**, Fujimoto, K., & Schneider, J.A. (2019). Facebook group affiliation ties, group topics, and HIV behavioral characteristics among young Black men who have sex with men: Potential for public health intervention. *SSM - Population Health*, 9, 100510-100510, Article 100510. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2019.100510>
- Young, L.E.**, Fujimoto, K., Alon, L., Zhang, L., & Schneider, J.A. (2019). The multiplex social environments of young Black men who have sex with men: How online and offline social structures impact HIV prevention and sex behavior engagement. *Journal of Social Structure*, 20(3), 70-95. <https://doi.org/10.21307/joss-2019-007>
- Manas, S.**, **Young, L.E.**, Fujimoto, K., Franklin, A. & Myneni, S. (2019). Exploring social structure of a health-related online community for tobacco cessation: A two-mode network approach. *Studies in Health Technology and Informatics*, 264, 1268–1272. <https://doi.org/10.3233/SHTI190430>
- Young, L.E.**, Fujimoto, K. & Schneider, J.A. (2018). HIV prevention and sex behaviors as organizing mechanisms in a Facebook group affiliation network among young Black men who have sex with men. *AIDS and Behavior*, 22, 3324-3334. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-018-2087-4>
- Young, L.E.**, Schumm, L.P., Alon, L., Bouris, A., Ferreira, M., Hill, B., Khanna, A.S., Valente, T.W., & Schneider, J.A. (2017). PrEP Chicago: A randomized controlled crossover peer change agent intervention to promote the adoption of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention among young Black men who have sex with men. *Clinical Trials*, 15(1), 44-52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1740774517730012>
- Young, L.E.**, Jonas, A.B, Michaels, S., Jackson, J.D., Pierce, M.J., & Schneider, J.A., for the UConnect Team (2017). Social-structural properties and HIV prevention among young men who have sex with men in the house/ball and gay family communities. *Social Science & Medicine*, 174, 26-34. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-017-1679-8>

- Young, L.E.**, Stuart, M., Jonas, A.B., Khanna, A., Skaathun, B., Morgan, E. & Schneider, J.A. for the uConnect Study Team (2017). Sex behaviors as social cues motivating social venue patronage among young Black men who have sex with men. *AIDS and Behavior*, 21(10), 2924-2934. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-017-1679-8>
- Schneider, J.A.**, Cornwell, B., Jonas, A.B., Lancki, N., Behler, R., Skaathun, B., **Young, L.E.**, Morgan, E., Michaels, S., Duvoisin, R., Khanna, A. S., Friedman, S., Schumm, L.P., & Laumann, E. (2017). Network dynamics of HIV risk and prevention in a population-based cohort of young Black men who have sex with men. *Network Science*, 5(1), 1-29. <https://doi.org/10.1017/nws.2016.27>
- Morgan, E.**, Skaathun, B., Michaels, S., **Young, L.E.**, Khanna, A.S., Friedman, S.R., Davis, B., Pitrak, D., & Schneider, J.A. (2016). Marijuana use as a sex-drug is associated with HIV risk among black MSM and their network. *AIDS and Behavior*, 20(3), 600-607. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10461-015-1195-7>
- Morgan, E.**, Khanna, A.S., Skaathun, B., Michaels, S., **Young, L.E.**, Duvoisin, R., Chang, M., Voisin, D., Cornwell, B., Coombs, R.W., Friedman, S.R., & **Schneider, J.A.** (2016). Marijuana use among young Black men who have sex with men and the HIV care continuum: findings from the uConnect Cohort. *Substance use & misuse*, 51(13), 1751-1759. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10826084.2016.1197265>
- Khanna, A.S.**, Stuart, M., Skaathun, B., Morgan, E., Green, K., **Young, L.E.**, Mayer, K.H., Voison, D., Schneider, J.A. (2016). Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) awareness and use in a population-based sample of younger Black men who have sex with men. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 176(1), 136-138. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2015.6536>
- Young, L.E.** and Leonardi, P.M. (2012). Social issue emergence on the web: A dual structural model. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 17(2), 231-246. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1083-6101.2011.01566.x>
- Brulle, R.J.** and **Young, L.E.** (2007). Advertising, individual consumption levels and the natural environment (1900-2000). *Sociological Inquiry*, 77(4), 522-542. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-682X.2007.00208.x>
- Kushmerick, A.**, **Young, L.E.** and Stein, S. (2007). Environmental justice content in mainstream, 6-12 environmental education guides. *Environmental Education Research*, 13(3), 385-408. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504620701430745>

Book Chapters

- Young, L.E.** (2025). Resilience in marginalized communities facing health disparities. In M. L. Doerfel, J. A. Theiss, M. K. Venetis, & K. M. Scharp (Eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Communication and Resilience* (1st ed.). New York: Taylor & Francis Group.
- Young, L.E.** & Pieterse, W. (2014). Strategic communication in a networked world: Integrating network and communication theories in the context of government to citizen communication. In D. Holtzhausen and A. Zerfass (eds), *The Routledge Handbook of Strategic Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203094440>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

* denotes a student/mentee; underline denotes lead (or co-lead) author(s)

- ***Zhai, V.** & **Young, L.E.** Turnover Intentions Among Volunteers in Homelessness Services: The Roles of Surface Acting, Tenure, and Social Resources. Under Review at *Voluntas*.
- ***Hotchkiss, M.**, Mair, C., Rice, E., **Young, L.E.**, Wallace, M., Margolis, A., & Blosnich, J.R. Participatory Complex Systems Science and Collaborative Model Building to Advance Suicide Prevention for Sexual and Gender Minority Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness: The Voices in the Loop (VITL) Study. Under review at *Prevention Science*.
- ***Hotchkiss, M.**, Mair, C., Margolis, A., Wallace, M., Rice, E., **Young, L.E.**, & Blosnich, J.R. In the Loop: Collaborative Model Building to Advance Suicide Prevention for Sexual and Gender Diverse Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness. Under review at *American Journal of Public Health*.
- ***Curry, M.**, *Chu, M-D-H., *Yan, C, Murray, S.B., Lerman, K., & **Young, L.E.** The Body as Status: Muscularity, Engagement, and Body Image Risk on #GymTok. Under Review at *Body Image*.
- Young, L.E.**, *Jang, E., *Lee, E., *Baird, A.B., *Nan, Y., *Tang, J.L., & Lett, E. The discursive labor of bearing witness: Decentralized framing and public meaning-making of anti-trans fatal violence. Under review at *Feminist Media Studies*.
- ***Tang, J.L.**, Liu, M., Wang, Y., **Young, L.E.** Quantifying outcomes of LGBTQIA+ discursive activism: Coming out discourses, narrative diffusion, and communicative actors on Weibo. Under review at *Computers in Human Behavior*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

* denotes a student/mentee; underline denotes lead (or co-lead) author(s)

* Hotchkiss, M., Blossnich, J.R., Prindle, J., **Young, L.E.**, Mair, C., Fulginiti, A., Bender, A.K., Rice, E., Hsu, H. T.
Leveraging Latent Class Analysis to Understand the Association between Syndemic Clustering of Adversities and Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors among Sexual and Gender Minority Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness. In preparation for submission to *Journal of Adolescent Health*.

GRANTS

Extramural Grants

Completed

NIH/NICHD Pathway to Independence Award – R00 Phase (5R00 HD094648)

8/1/2020 – 7/31/2024

HIV Prevention and Care (\$745,116)

This K99/R00 proposal is an innovative mix methods design that utilizes machine learning techniques for text analytics and predictive modeling in combination with advanced social network analysis to provide valuable information about the online communicative and social contexts that contribute to HIV prevention and care engagement among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM).

Role: Principal Investigator

NIH/NICHD Pathway to Independence Award – K99 Phase (K99 HD094648)

8/1/2018 – 7/31/2020

HIV Prevention and Care (\$189,664)

This K99/R00 proposal is an innovative mix methods design that utilizes machine learning techniques for text analytics and predictive modeling in combination with advanced social network analysis to provide valuable information about the online communicative and social contexts that contribute to HIV prevention and care engagement among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM).

Role: Principal Investigator

R01 AI120700 (NIAID)

7/1/2015-12/30/2019

Accelerating PrEP Diffusion through Network Change Agents

This intervention – PrEP Chicago - will utilize bridging network members within a large young Black MSM Facebook network to accelerate the diffusion of PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) knowledge and early adoption in this same network. If successful, this project has the potential to translate a highly efficacious biomedical intervention into an impactful one in a sub-population at highest risk for HIV infection in the United States.

Role: Postdoctoral Project Director (2016- 2020)

CDPH (CDC)

1/1/2015-12/30/2018

PrEP Chicago's South Side PrEP Project (S2P2)

The overarching goal of PrEP Chicago is to accelerate movement through the PrEP care continuum in most at risk populations on the South Side of Chicago including younger Black MSM and transwomen. PrEP Chicago utilizes active outreach through a variety of virtual and in-person strategies to achieve this goal. This includes a PrEP access and information line where eligible and interested clients are provided longitudinal PrEP care engagement services, as well as a very active Facebook presence and engagement.

Role: Postdoctoral Project Director (2015-2016)

Internal Grants

Active

Annenberg Dean's Faculty Research Fund

6/30/2025 – 6/30/2026

Framing of Transgender People and Politics by News Media Practitioners and Organizations (\$10,000)

This multiphase project will examine a ten-year span of social media posts from news media practitioners and organizations with the longer-term aims of: (1) characterizing the evolution of trans topics, tropes, and sentiments and the news media entities behind them, (2) assessing how changes in trans topics, tropes, and sentiments relate to real world events and to changes in the socio-political environment and public opinion, and (3) determining which topics, tropes, and sentiments elicit greater user engagement.

Role: Principal Investigator

Completed

Annenberg Dean's Faculty Research Fund

6/30/2023 – 6/30/2024

Effects of Message Framing and Information Diversity on Misinformation Susceptibility (\$9,840)

We propose a series of factorial experiments to test the effects of manipulations to the way disinformation messages are presented (i.e. the frames) and the content setting in which the disinformation is presented, focusing explicitly on information diversity. Our findings will allow us to build a framework that connects disinformation strategies to audience reactions and extend current research on misinformation inoculation.

Role: Principal Investigator

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

* denotes a student/mentee

Invited Talks

Young, L.E. (March 4, 2026). Effective Health Communication in an Era of Misinformation: Why Patients are Susceptible to Misinformation and How Clinicians Can Respond. Presented at the OB/GYN Continuing Education Workshop at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

Young, L.E. (January 30, 2025). In networks we (build) trust: Reducing barriers to care through peer-based communication. Presented at the "HIV Communication as Access" Conference hosted by the University of Pennsylvania Center for AIDS Research (CFAR) and the Annenberg Center for Public Policy.

Young, L.E. (April 13, 2024). Panelist at the VaryCSS Symposium at Cornell University.

The symposium was attended by 15-20 Computational Social Science graduate students at Cornell who identify with under-represented demographic groups. The Symposium was organized by a member of the VaryCSS working group who wanted to create a mentoring opportunity for minoritized members of the CSS community.

Young, L.E. (November 10, 2023). Digital epidemiology meets network science: A computational analytic framework for studying the social contexts of sexual and gender minority health. Presented to Network Science and Social Network Analysis at the U (NetSNAU) at the University of Utah. (Virtual Presentation)

Young, L.E. (April 21, 2023). Digital epidemiology meets network science: A computational analytic framework for studying the social contexts of sexual and gender minority health. Presented to the NetSci Speaker Series at Rutgers University. (Virtual Presentation)

Young, L.E. (April 14, 2023). Framing Black trans lives: A mixed methods interrogation of social and mainstream media framings of loss of life in the Black trans community. Presented at the Annual ShowCAIS Symposium at USC. Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Young, L.E. (June 3, 2021). Networks and communication: The online dimensions of HIV prevention and risk. Presented to the RAND Center for Applied Network Analysis (R-CANA) Group. (Virtual Presentation)

Young, L.E. (April 13, 2021). Disrupting the COVID-19 misinfodemic: Network solutions for network problems. Presented to the University of Texas Austin Moody School for Communication Colloquium. (Virtual Presentation)

Young, L.E. (September 26, 2019). Networks and communication: The online dimensions of HIV prevention and risk. Presented to the UC San Diego Department of Medicine, HIV and Substance Use Seminar. San Diego, CA, USA.

Young, L.E. (July 2, 2019). Signatures of HIV-related norms in the social networks of young Black men who have sex with men. Presented to the University of California San Francisco Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) Methods Core Seminar. San Francisco, CA, USA.

Young, L.E. (June 11, 2019). Networks and AI: Computational partners in the study of HIV prevention and risk online.

Presented to the UCLA Center for HIV Identification, Prevention, and Treatment Services (CHIPTS) Methods Core Seminar. Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Young, L.E. (March 26, 2019). Structural and communication signatures of HIV-related norms in peer networks of young Black men who have sex with men. Presented for the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine Institute for Prevention Research Speaker Series. Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Young, L.E. (March 6, 2019). Social network analysis and artificial intelligence: Methodological partners in the study of HIV prevention and risk online. Presented for the University of Southern California Center for Artificial Intelligence in Society (CAIS) Seminar Series. Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Young, L.E. (October 15, 2018). The communication and network properties of HIV prevention and care engagement in a multidimensional online social network among young Black men who have sex with men. Presented to the University of Southern California Annenberg School of Communication Networks Research Group. Los Angeles, CA, USA.

Conference Presentations (Full Paper Submissions)

*Zhou, S. (presenter), **Young, L.E.**, Twyman, M., and Ferrara, E. (June 2026). Who, Why & How: Disentangling the effects of moderation source, context, and language on post-removal behavior. Presented at the 2026 International Communication Association Conference, Cape Town, South Africa.

Young, L.E., *Jang, E., *Le, E., *Baird, A., *Nan, Y., and *Tang, J. (June 2024). Tweeting out for Black trans life: Digital grassroots witnessing and networked framing of fatal violence against Black transgender people. Presented at the 2024 International Communication Association Conference, Gold Coast, AUS.

*Lee, E. (presenter), *Baird, A.B., and **Young, L.E.** (June 2024). The role of public and private organizations in the transgender rights debate: Legitimizing and delegitimizing transgender voices. Presented at the 2024 International Communication Association Conference, Gold Coast, AUS.

*Choi, E.C. (presenter) and **Young, L.E.**, (June 2024). Who you know, what you believe, what you share: The triad of personal networks and health misinformation susceptibility. Presented at the 2024 International Communication Association Conference, Gold Coast, AUS.

Young, L.E. (November 2023). Effects of online friendship on sexual health behavior and communication among Black sexual minority men: A study of network exposure. Presented at the 2023 National Communication Association (NCA) Annual Conference, National Harbor, MD, USA.

▸ Awarded *Top Paper*, Health Communication Division, National Communication Association

*Jang, E. (presenter), Nan, Y., *Chang, H-C, and **Young, L.E.** (2023). Network Structure of Informational and Emotional Support in a Twitter-based Long Covid Support Community. Presented at the 2023 International Communication Association Conference, Toronto, Canada.

Young, L.E., *Tang, J-L. & *Nan, Y. (May 2022). Digital Communication and Social Networks: Clues in a Community-Informed Computational Approach to HIV Behavioral Surveillance. Presented at the 2022 International Communication Association Conference, Paris, France.

Young, L.E. (November, 2014). You're only as good as the company others think you should keep: Foundations, field-building, and the institutionalization of collaboration in the third sector. Presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Organizational Communication Division, Chicago, IL.

▸ Awarded *Top Student Paper*, Org. Communication Division, National Communication Association

Young, L.E. (May, 2014). The intended and unintended consequences of hyperlinking behaviors on the advancement of environmental claims: Unpacking the relational infrastructure of issue politics on the web. Presented at the International Communication Association Conference, Political Communication Division, Seattle, WA.

Young, L.E. and Contractor, N. (November, 2013). Enacting Community Capital: Patterns of interaction between residents and neighborhood organizations that bring life to networked assets for community resilience. Presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Organizational Communication Division, Washington, DC.

Young, L.E. and Pierce, C.S. (November, 2013). Identifying social conditions that affect expertise location in knowledge intensive work groups: When embracing sociality enables knowledge acquisition. Presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Organizational Communication Division, Washington, DC.

Young, L.E. and Contractor, N. (June, 2013). No organization is an island: A multi-theoretical, multi-level analysis of the

generative mechanisms that inform collaborative choices amongst community-based organizations. Presented at the International Communication Association Conference, Organizational Communication Division, London, UK.

Young, L.E. and Contractor, N. (November, 2012). Identifying the ties that inform: Unpacking the relational context of environmental information seeking. Presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Environmental Communication Division, Orlando, FL.

Young, L.E. (May 2012). From the Web to the Head: Modeling the Interdependent Relationship between Empirical Hyperlink Networks and Cognitive 'Issue Networks'. Presented at the International Communication Association, Communication and Technology Division Doctoral Consortium.

Young, L.E. and Contractor, N. (February, 2011). Individual, tie, and network level predictors of access to social capital: Applying multi-level analysis to the study of ego-network capital. Presented at the International Sunbelt Social Network Conference, St. Pete Beach, FL.

Young, L.E. and Pieterston, W. (May, 2011). Government to citizen communication in a networked world: Integrating network and communication theories to inform strategic communication. Presented at the International Communication Association, Boston, MA.

Young, L.E. and Brulle, R.J. (August, 2006). Advertising, individual consumption levels and the natural environment (1900-2000). Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada.

Conference Presentations (Abstract Submissions)

Young, L.E. & *Mao, S. (June 2025). Interdependent Dynamics of School-Based Friendships and Adolescent Depression and Substance Use. Presented at the 2026 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Daytona Beach, FL, USA.

*Hotchkiss, M., Mair, C., Rice, E., Wallace, M., Margolis, A., **Young, L.E.**, Prindle, Litwin, M., J., Blosnich, J.R. (March 2026). The Voices in the Loop (VITL) Study: Participatory Systems Modeling for Suicide Prevention with LGBTQ+ Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness. Poster presentation at the Annual ShowCAIS Symposium; Los Angeles, CA.

*Hotchkiss, M., Blosnich, J. R., Prindle, J., **Young, L.E.**, Mair, S., Fulginiti, A., Bender, A., Rice, E., Hsu, H. T. (2026, May). Syndemic Profiles and Suicide Risk Among Sexual and Gender Minority Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness: A Latent Class Analysis. Poster presentation at the Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting; Washington D.C.

Young, L.E. (June 2025). The kids are not alright: Social correlates of adolescent mental health. Presented at the 2025 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Paris, France.

Young, L.E. & Billard, T.J. (September 2024). From identity threat to health threat: A stress-related framework for studying the effects of anti-transgender misinformation exposure on the mental and physical health of transgender people. Presented at the 2nd International Trans Studies Conference, Chicago, IL, USA.

Young, L.E., Piombo, S., & Valente, T.W. (June 2024). Adolescent mental health, peer mental health, and sexual and gender identity: Unpacking the social and identity-based contingencies of adolescent mental health outcomes. Presented at the 2024 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK.

Young, L.E. (June 2023). Effects of online friendship on sexual health behavior and communication among Black sexual minority men: A study of behavioral and communication network exposure. Presented at the 2023 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Portland, OR, USA.

*Nan, Y. (co-presenter), *Jang, E. (co-presenter), & **Young, L.E.** (June 2023). Hashtags as discursive agents: An analysis of hashtag co-occurrence modularity and brokerage in the black trans lives matter movement on Twitter. Presented at the 2023 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Portland, OR, USA.

Young, L.E., *Nan, Y. & *Tang, J.L. (July 2022). Online friendships, HIV healthcare engagement, and communication about sexual health among young Black sexual minority men. Presented at the 2022 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Cairns, Australia.

Young, L.E. & *Tang, J-L. (July 2021). A Dynamic Analysis of HIV-Related Norm Formation in Online Friendship Network among Young Men Who Have Sex With Men. Presented at the 2021 Networks 2021 Conference, meeting held virtually due to COVID-19.

Young, L.E. & Schneider, J.A. (July 2020). The Co-evolution of Online Network Structure and HIV Prevention Behaviors

among Peer Change Agents in a Community-based Network Intervention. Presented at the 2020 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference (Virtual Meeting).

Young, L.E., Michaels, S., Cohen, H., Hill, B.,... and Schneider, J.A. (April 2020). A Pragmatic Randomized Controlled Trial to Accelerate Diffusion of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention. Presented at the 2020 Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) Conference, San Francisco, CA, USA.

▸ Awarded *Best Abstract* by the HIV and Sexual Health Special Interest Group

Young, L.E., Fujimoto, K., Schneider, J.A. (April 2020). The Structure of HIV Risk and Protection in a Facebook Group Affiliation Network among Young Black Men who have Sex with Men. Presented at the 2020 Society of Behavioral Medicine (SBM) Conference, San Francisco, CA, USA.

Young, L.E., Thompson, N., Onasch-Vera, L., Rice, E. Network Stability and Sexual Risk Among Homeless Youth in Los Angeles. Presented at the 2019 INSNA Annual Social Networks Conference, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Young, L.E., Fujimoto, K., Schneider, J.A. (Nov, 2018). Online group affiliations, group focus, and HIV prevention and sex behaviors among young men who have sex with men. Presented at the 2018 North American Social Networks Conference (NASN), Washington, D.C., USA.

Young, L.E., Ferreira, M., and Schneider, J.A. (June 2018). Sociometric signatures of effective peer leadership in a network HIV prevention intervention among young Black men who have sex with men. Presented at the 2018 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Sunbelt Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands.

Young, L.E., Fujimoto, K., Schneider, J.A. (July 2017). HIV-related behaviors and peer network exposure on Facebook: The networked contexts of peer influence in a multidimensional online social networking environment among young Black men who have sex with men (YBMSM). Presented at the 2017 North American Social Networks Conference (NASN), Washington, D.C., USA.

Young, L.E., Jonas, A., Michaels, S., Schneider, J.A. for the UConnect Study Team (2016). The organization of HIV risk in a two-mode Facebook network among young Black men who have sex with men. Presented at the 2016 International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Annual Conference, Newport Beach, CA, USA.

Young, L.E., Stuart, M., Khanna, A.S., Skaathun, B., Morgan, E., Schumm, L.P., Schneider, J.A. (July, 2015). The organizing potential of risk behaviors: Sexual risk behaviors as social cues that motivate where young black men who have sex with men (YBMSM) go to meet and socialize. Presented at the 8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention, Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Young, L.E. (October, 2013). When hyperlink structure meets cognitive structure: Advancing a dual structuration framework for understanding social issue emergence on the web. Presented at the Organizational Communication Mini Conference, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Young, L.E., (September, 2013). From strategic hyperlink networks to cognitive issue networks: Advancing a dual structural model of social issue emergence on the web. Presented at the European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, Bordeaux, France.

Young, L.E., Narayan, S. and Contractor, N. (May, 2013). Issue spaces as semantic and social networks: Does what you know determine who you know and vice versa?. Presented at the 2013 International Network of Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Sunbelt Conference, Hamburg, Germany.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Service to University of Southern California

Annenberg Faculty Committees

AY 2025-2026	Member, PhD Admissions Committee
AY 2023-2024	Member, PhD Admissions Committee
AY 2022-2023	Member, PhD Admissions Committee
AY 2021-2022	Member, PhD Admissions Committee
AY 2025-2026	Member, Digital Social Media (DSM) Admissions Committee
AY 2024-2025	Member, Digital Social Media (DSM) Admissions Committee
AY 2020-2021	Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

AY 2021-2022 Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Organizing

AY 2023-2024 Chair, Organizing Committee for the ANN-SONIC Network Theory Workshop
Hosted by USC, Co-hosted by Northwestern University, March 2024

AY 2022-2023 Member, Organizing Committee for the ANN-SONIC Network Theory Workshop
Hosted by Northwestern University, Co-hosted by USC, May 2023

AY 2020-2021 Member, Organizing Committee for USC Networks 2021 Meeting

External Professional Activities

Associational Memberships

2009-2014, 2020- International Communication Association (ICA)

2009-2014, 2020- National Communication Association (NCA)

2011- International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA)

2020- American Public Health Association

Organizing

2023 Chair, Top Student Paper Committee, International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA)

2020 Program Committee Member, International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Sunbelt Conference COVID-19 Satellite

2016 – 2024 Session Organizer, International Network for Social Network Analysis (INSNA) Sunbelt Conference

2017, 2018 Session Organizer, North American Social Networks Conference (NASN)

Grant Reviewer

Ad hoc NIH Study Panel, Health Interventions and Public Health Approaches in HIV/AIDS, April 2025

Ad hoc NIH Study Panel, Population and Public Health Approaches to HIV/AIDS, July 2024

Ad hoc NIMHD R13 Grant Program, July 2021

Journal Reviewer

Ad hoc LGBT Health

Ad hoc Substance Use and Misuse

Ad hoc Health Equity

Ad hoc Social Networks

Ad hoc Social Science & Medicine

Ad hoc Journal of Medical Internet Research (JMIR)

Ad hoc AIDS and Behavior

Ad hoc Health Education Research

Ad hoc Culture, Health & Sexuality

Ad hoc International Journal of Communication

Ad hoc International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health

Ad hoc Journal of Communication in Healthcare

TEACHING

Teaching

University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication

Courses

2026 COMM 305, Understanding Social Science Research, Spring Semesters (Undergraduate)

2025 – present COMM 620/663, The Practice of Research, Fall Semesters (Graduate)

2020 – present COMM 402, Public Communication Campaigns, Fall Semesters (Undergraduate)

2020 – present COMM 550, Quantitative Research Methods, Spring Semesters (Graduate)

Directed Researches/Independent Studies

AY 2024-2025	COMM 790/675, 1 Directed Researches/Independent Studies (Graduate)
AY 2023-2024	COMM 790/675, 7 Directed Researches/Independent Studies (Graduate)
AY 2022-2023	COMM 790/675, 9 Directed Researches/Independent Studies (Graduate)
AY 2021-2022	COMM 790/675, 2 Directed Researches/Independent Studies (Graduate)
AY 2020-2021	COMM 790/675, 2 Directed Researches/Independent Studies (Graduate)

Rowan University, Department of Communication Studies (Adjunct, AY 2008-2009)

AY 2008-2009	CMS 4.250, Communication Theory (Undergraduate)
AY 2008-2009	CMS 4.205, Public Speaking (Undergraduate)

Penn State University Brandywine Campus, Communication Arts & Sciences Program (Adjunct, AY 2008-2009)

AY 2008-2009	CAS 100A, Effective Speech (Undergraduate)
AY 2008-2009	CAS 250, Small Group Communication (Undergraduate)

Guest Lectures

Fall 2025	ASCJ 200, Navigating Media and News in the Digital Age, USC Annenberg
Fall 2023, 2024	MTS 525, Communication Networks, Northwestern University
Fall 2024	MTS 501, Introduction to Graduate Research, Northwestern University
Fall 2022	COMM 525, Humanistic and Social Science Perspectives, USC Annenberg

ADVISING AND MENTORING

Primary Advisees (Advisor, Chair, or Co-Chair)

2026 – present	Doctoral Advisor, Yiting (Daisy) Huang
2025 – present	Doctoral Advisor, Shufan Mao
2025 – Present	Doctoral Advisor, Daniela Kent
2025 – Present	Doctoral Co-Advisor, Siyi Zhou
2025 – present	Dissertation Co-chair, Michie Leccese
2025 – present	Dissertation Co-chair, Magdalayna Drivas Curry
2025 – present	Dissertation Co-chair, Allie Lyamuya
2024 – present	Doctoral Advisor, Zituo Wang
2024 – present	Doctoral Advisor and Dissertation Chair, Bumju Jung
2022 – present	Dissertation Co-Chair, Ke Huang-Isherwood
2022 – 2025	Dissertation Co-Chair, Eugene Jang (Degree conferred August 2025) Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT)
2020 – 2025	Dissertation Co-Chair, Yuanfeixue Nan (Degree conferred Aug 2025) Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Alabama Birmingham Center for AIDS Research (CFAR)
2020 – 2024	Dissertation Co-Chair, Jack Lipei Tang (Degree conferred Aug 2024) Assistant Professor, University of Alabama

Secondary Advisees (Doctoral Guidance, Qualifying Exam, and Dissertation Committees)

Annenberg School for Communication

2025 – present	Member, Qualifying Committee, Fernanda Soria
2025 – present	Member, Qualifying Committee, Nikki Thomas
2024 – present	Member, Doctoral Guidance and Qualifying Committees, Ji Ye Kim
2024 – present	Member, Doctoral Guidance and Qualifying Committees, Fiona Li
2024 – present	Member, Doctoral Guidance, Qualifying, and Dissertation Committees, Jade Arnold
2023 – present	Member, Doctoral Guidance, Qualifying, and Dissertation Committees, Eun Cheol Choi
2022 – present	Member, Doctoral Guidance, Qualifying, and Dissertation Committees, Shadee Ashtari

2022 – present	Member, Doctoral Guidance, Qualifying, and Dissertation Committees, Essence Wilson UX Researcher, Riot Games
2020 – 2021	Member, Dissertation Committee, Liyuan Wang Assistant Professor, University of Georgia
2020 – 2024	Member, Qualifying and Dissertation Committees, Ashley Phelps
2020 – 2023	Member, Qualifying and Dissertation Committees, Mingxuan Liu Assistant Professor, University of Macao
2020 – 2022	Member, Qualifying and Dissertation Committees, Paul Sparks

Other Schools and Departments

2025 – present	Member, Dissertation Committee, Ashwin Rao (USC Viterbi School of Engineering)
2025 – present	Member, Qualifying Committee, Minh Duc (David) Chu (USC Viterbi School of Engineering)
2025 – present	Member, Qualifying and Dissertation Committees, Reid Whaley (USC Keck School of Medicine)
2025 – present	Member, Qualifying Committee, Maxyn Leitner (USC Viterbi School of Engineering)
2025 – present	Member, Qualifying and Dissertation Committees, Maiya Hotchkiss (USC School of Social Work)
2024 – present	Member, Qualifying Committee, Rebecca Dorn (USC Viterbi School of Engineering)
2022 – 2024	Member, Qualifying and Dissertation Committees, Sarah Piombo (USC Keck School of Medicine) Postdoc, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health

Master's Student Committees

2023 – 2024	Member, Master's Thesis Committee, Raymon Troncoso (Annenberg Journalism)
2021	Member, Master's Defense Committee, Weiwei Zheng