

**Kevin D. Williams**  
**Curriculum Vita**  
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**Contact Info:**

Personal

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Business

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**Education:**

- 2005: Ph. D., The University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Major: Mass Communication  
Dissertation: High Scores: How Violence and Frustration in Video Games Affect Aggression  
Chair: Joseph Dominick
- Winner of Broadcast Education Association's Harwood Dissertation of the Year Award for 2006
- 2002: M. A., The University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Major: Journalism and Mass Communication  
Thesis: Wrestling with Violence: Desensitization to Violence Through Viewing Professional Wrestling  
Chair: Bruce Klopfenstein
- 1996: B. A., The University of Georgia, Athens, GA  
Major: Psychology
- Magna Cum Laude
  - Phi Beta Kappa

**Academic Appointments:**

- 2011-Current: Associate Professor  
Department of Communication, Mississippi State University
- 2005-2011: Assistant Professor  
Department of Communication, Mississippi State University

**Related Professional Experience Before Academia:**

- 1997-1999: Broadcaster/Program Coordinator, Morris Network Services, Augusta, GA
- 1997: Radio Personality, WPUP-FM, Southern Broadcasting Company, Athens, GA
- 1991-1992: Radio Personality, WPEH-FM, Peach Broadcasting, Louisville, GA

## Research:

### Interests

Video Game Psychology  
Media Effects (specialty in violence effects)  
Violence as Depicted Through Popular Culture  
The Social Importance of Superhero Characters in Mass Media

### Blind Peer-Refereed Journal Articles

- Williams, K. D. (in press). (R)Evolution of the Television Superhero: Comparing Superfriends and Justice League in Terms of Foreign Relations. *Journal of Popular Culture*.
- Williams, K. D. (2011). The Effects of Homophily, Identification, and Violent Video Games on Players. *Mass Communication and Society*, 14, 3-24.
- Walton, L., & Williams, K. D. (2011). The WWE responds to the Chris Benoit tragedy: A case study. *The International Journal of Sport Communication*, 4, 99-114.
- Williams, K. D. (2009). The Effects of Frustration, Violence, and Trait Hostility after Playing a Video Game. *Mass Communication and Society*, 12, 291-310.
- Rhineberger, G., Rader, N., & Williams, K. D. (2008). Constructing Juvenile Delinquency through Crime Drama: An Analysis of Law & Order. *Journal of Criminal Justice and Popular Culture*, 15 (1), found online at <http://www.albany.edu/scj/jcpc/vol15.html#vol15is1>

### Works Under Review or In Progress

Williams, K. D. *The Effects of Video Game Controls on Hostility, Identification, and Presence (revise and resubmit)*

### Invited Works

- Williams, K. D. (2005). I Want My ITV. In J. Dominick, *The Dynamics of Mass Communications: Media in the Digital Age* (8th ed.). McGraw-Hill. p. 263.
- Reprinted in 2007 9<sup>th</sup> ed., p. 263

### Blind Peer-Refereed Conference Presentations

Williams, K. D. "Immersive Tendency and Motion as Indicators of Video Game Involvement and Presence" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2010 Annual Conference, Denver.

Williams, K. D. "The Effects of Video Game Controls on Hostility, Identification, and Presence" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2010 Annual Conference, Denver.

Williams, K. D. "The Influence of Video Game Character Identification on Feelings of Aggression" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2008 Annual Conference, Chicago.

Williams, K. D., "Pushing Continue: Combining Violence with Other Variables in Video Game Research" at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2006 Annual Conference, San Francisco.

Williams, K. D., "High Scores: How Violence and Frustration in Video Games Affect Aggression" at the International Communication Association 2006 Annual Convention, Dresden, Germany.

Rader, N. E., Rhineberger-Dunn, G. M., and Williams, K. D. "Constructing Juvenile Delinquency through Crime Drama: An Historical Analysis of Law & Order." Presented at the 2007 meeting of the Midwestern Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

#### Grants, Awards, and Recognition

MSU Office of Research and Economic Development quick grant recipient 2007, \$2000

First recipient of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Mass Communication and Society Research Award, 2006, awarded \$5,000

HARP Research Fellow, awarded \$2,000 competitive grant from Mississippi State University Humanities and Arts Research Program

Awarded Broadcast Education Association's 2006 Harwood Dissertation Award for best dissertation of the year

Top Faculty Paper Award, Mass Communication and Society Division, "Pushing Continue: Combining Violence with Other Variables in Video Game Research." Presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication 2006 Annual Conference, San Francisco (also noted above)

Top Faculty Paper Award, Games Studies Division, "High Scores: How Violence and Frustration in Video Games Affect Aggression." Presented at the

International Communication Association 2006 Annual Convention,  
Dresden, Germany (also noted above)

## **Teaching:**

### Courses Taught

CO 3713, Digital Communication  
CO 4323/6323, Mass Media and Society (Face to Face)  
CO 4323/6323, Mass Media and Society (Online)

### Member, MA Thesis Committee

John MacArthur, Psychology

- Title "'Stalking on the Screen: Examining Media Portrayals of Relational Stalking Behavior"

### National Teaching Presentations/Panels Accepted

Panelist, *Promising Professors Teaching Panel*. Panel co-sponsored by the Mass Communication and Society Division and Graduate Education Interest Group during the 2009 Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

*Produced in Boston, Shared with the World*. Teaching Panel including producers from WGBH and Frontline Documentaries. Panel co-sponsored by the Entertainment Studies Interest Group and Radio-Television Journalism Division during the 2009 Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

*Using Online Video Content to Encourage Classroom Discussion on the Video Game and Violence Debate*. Panel co-sponsored by the Communication Technology Division and Entertainment Studies Interest Group during the 2007 Annual Convention of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

### University Teaching Presentations

Annually present *Media Violence and its Significance* to Dr. Nicole Radar's Juvenile Delinquency Class in the Department of Sociology at Mississippi State University

Invited talk on How Media Violence Affects Families and Children, Dr. Tommy Phillips's Parenting Class (HS 4803/6803), November 9, 2009

Invited talk on Video Games and Research for Shackouls Honors College, Mississippi State University, February 27th, 2008

Organized and moderated a public interview with Grammy-nominated musician Art Alexakis on the topic of music, media, and society for the Department of Communication, October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Invited talk on Violence and the Media for Shackouls Honors College, Mississippi State University, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Invited talk on Violence and the Media for Suttle Hall Dorm Meeting, Mississippi State University, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005

#### Awards and Recognition

Promising Professors Award, Second Place, Mass Communication and Society Teaching Award for Assistant Professors, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2009

Top Communication Teacher of 2006-2007, Mississippi State University Department of Communication, awarded by student vote

#### **Service:**

#### Editorial Service

Member, Editorial Board, *Mass Communication and Society*

Manuscript Referee, *Mass Communication and Society*

Manuscript Referee, Entertainment Studies Interest Group, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2010 Annual Convention

Manuscript Referee, Mass Communication and Society Division, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2009 Midwinter Conference

Manuscript Referee, Entertainment Studies Interest Group, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2008 Annual Convention

Manuscript Referee, Minorities and Communication Division, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2008 Annual Convention

Manuscript Referee, Entertainment Studies Interest Group, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2007 Annual Convention

Manuscript Referee, Mass Communication Division, Southern States Communication Association, 2006 Annual Convention

### National/Professional Service

Officer status in the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

- Mass Communication and Society Division Webmaster, 2006-Current
- Entertainment Studies Interest Group Teaching Chair, 2007-2009

Discussant, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention, Entertainment Studies Interest Group, 2009

- Critiqued and discussed 4 research papers

Discussant, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention, Entertainment Studies Interest Group, 2008

- Critiqued and discussed 4 research papers

Judge for Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's *Mass Communication and Society Research Award*, 2008

Judge for Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication's *Promising Professor Teaching Award*, 2009

### Regional/Local Service

*The Impact of Media on Violence*. Invited Talk for Care Lodge Domestic Violence Shelter, Meridian, MS. April 20, 2010

*How the Music Industry Works*. Invited Talk for The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection College Group, Starkville, MS. April 14, 2010

*A Career with Gaming on the Side*. Invited Talk for Noxubee County Studio School, February 2, 2010

Future Faculty Program. Respondent during retreat for graduate assistants entering the academic market. University of Georgia, April 4-6, 2008

Guest Member of Faculty Symposium following Theatre MSU's production, *Omnium Gatherum*, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2005

### University Service

Internal Reviewer, Psychology 5-year Report, Mississippi State University, 2010

Phi Beta Kappa Application Committee, 2009

Mississippi State University Society of Scholars Advisory Board, 2008-Present

Curriculum Committee, Department of Communication, Mississippi State University, 2008-Present

College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate, Mississippi State University, 2008-Present

- Elected Vice-President/Secretary, 2010
- Elected Vice-President, 2009

Faculty Search Committee, Department of Communication, Mississippi State University, 2005-Present

- Served on various search committees since being hired
- Chair of Search Committee, 2009

Scholarship Committee, Department of Communication, Mississippi State University, 2005-Present

Computer Committee, Department of Communication, Mississippi State University, 2005

### **Professional and Honor Affiliations:**

Mississippi State University Society of Scholars

Phi Beta Kappa

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

International Communication Association

Popular Culture Association

Kappa Tau Alpha, The National Honor Society in Journalism and Mass Communication

Psi Chi, The National Honor Society in Psychology