

Sara Babu

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EDUCATION -----

Ph.D.	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Communication Advisor: Charee M. Thompson	2022 – 2026 (<i>Anticipated</i>)
M.A.	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Communication Advisor: Charee M. Thompson	2020 – 2022
B.A.	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Communication Concentration in Health Communication	2016 – 2020

RESEARCH INTERESTS -----

Interpersonal Communication, Health Communication, Discourse and Identity, Patient-Provider Communication, Qualitative (Field) Methods, Contested Illness, Biomedical Ethics

SCHOLARSHIP -----

Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

- Thompson, C. M., **Babu, S.**, & Makos, S. (2022). “It does make you feel like you’re crazy”: Women’s experiences of health-related communicative disenfranchisement. *Health Communication*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2022.07.013>
- Thompson, C. M., Pulido, M. D., **Babu, S.**, Zenzola, N., & Chiu, C-Y. (2022). Communication needs and barriers within interactions between persons living with multiple sclerosis and their health care providers: A scoping review. *Patient Education & Counseling*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2022.07.013>
- Thompson, C. M., **Babu, S.**, Romo, L. K., Pulido, M. D., Liao, D., & Kriss, L. (2022). “I changed, I had to realize that I was wrong”: Identity gap management amidst evolving uncertainty. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 39(4), 844-863. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02654075211048253>
- Thompson, C. M., Romo, L. K., Pulido, M. D., Liao, D., Kriss, L., & **Babu, S.** (2021). Denying and accepting a family member’s illness: Uncertainty management as a process. *Health Communication*, Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2021.1964713>
- Thompson, C. M., Rhidenour, K. B., Blackburn, K. G., Barrett, A. K., & **Babu, S.** (2021). Using crowdsourced medicine to manage uncertainty on Reddit: The case of COVID-19 long-haulers. *Patient Education & Counseling*, 105(2), 322-330. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pec.2021.07.011>

Manuscripts Under Review and In Progress

- Thompson, C. M., **Babu, S.**, & Makos, S. (Under Review). A grounded theory of credibility work and illness: Women on trial in healthcare. *Communication Research*.
- Voorhees, H., Makos, S., **Babu, S.**, Taniguchi, E., & Thompson, C. M. (Under Review). Everyday support provision to individuals with chronic illnesses: A needs assessment. *Personal Relationships*.
- Guntzviller, L. M., Pulido, M. D., Makos, S., Kelpinski, L., Rollins, D., Zenzola, N., & **Babu, S.** (Under Review). A longitudinal extension of advice response theory. *Human Communication Research*.
- Babu, S.**, Thompson, C. M., & Makos, S. (Drafting). Moving beyond the micro-macro binary: How women scale their experiences of health dismissal. Target Journal: *Human Communication Research*
- Rhidenour, K. B., Winslow, L., Thompson, C. M., Julien-Bell, S., Kelpinski, L., **Babu, S.**, & Mai, J. (Analysis). The rhetoric of normal. Target Journal: *Quarterly Journal of Speech*.

Conference Presentations

- Babu, S.**, Thompson, C. M., & Makos, S. (2023, May). Moving beyond the micro-macro binary: How women scale their experiences of health dismissal. Paper submitted to the 73rd annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Toronto, ON, CA.
- Thompson, C. M., **Babu, S.**, & Makos, S. (2022, November). “It does make you feel like you’re crazy”: Women’s experiences of health-related communicative disenfranchisement. Paper accepted to the 108th annual meeting of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Thompson, C. M., Pulido, M. D., **Babu, S.**, Zenzola, N., & Chiu, C-Y. (2022, November). Communication between persons with multiple sclerosis and their health care providers: A scoping review. Paper accepted to the 108th annual meeting of the National Communication Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Thompson, C. M., Makos, S., & **Babu, S.** (2022, April). Conceptualizing moral boundary work: Women’s communicative labor to be seen as credible witnesses to their health. Paper presented at the biannual Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.
- Voorhees, H., Makos, S., **Babu, S.**, Thompson, C. M., & Taniguchi, E. (2022, April). Everyday support provision to individuals with chronic illnesses: A needs assessment. Paper presented at the biannual Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.
- Thompson, C. M., **Babu, S.**, Romo, L. K., Pulido, M. D., Liao, D., & Kriss, L. (2021, November). “I changed, I had to realize that I was wrong”: Identity gap negotiation amidst evolving uncertainty. Paper presented at the 107th annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- Guntzviller, L. M., Pulido, M. D., **Babu, S.**, Kelpinski, L., Makos, S., Rollins, D., & Zenzola, N. (2021, November). A longitudinal extension of advice response theory. Paper presented at the 107th annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Seattle, WA.
- Thompson, C. M., Romo, L. K., Pulido, M. D., Liao, D., Kriss, L. & **Babu, S.** (2020, November). “Pulling all the puzzle pieces together”: Reconceptualizing illness uncertainty and its management as sensemaking. Paper presented at the 106th annual meeting of the National Communication Association, Indianapolis, IN.
- Babu, S.** (2020, April). At the crux of sensemaking: How individuals’ identities anchor their interpretations and actions. Poster presented at the University of Illinois Undergraduate Research Symposium, Urbana-Champaign, IL.

Thompson, C. M., Romo, L. K., Pulido, M. D., Liao, D., & **Babu, S.** (2020, April). What happens when illness becomes a reality?: Individuals' evolving uncertainty management about family members' health. Paper presented at the biannual Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Lexington, KY.

ASSISTANTSHIPS & APPOINTMENTS -----

Teaching

Instructor of Record	
CMN 260: Introduction to Health Communication	2022 – 2023
CMN 101: Public Speaking	2020 – 2022
Undergraduate Teaching Intern	
CMN 396: Applied Organizational Communication	2020

Research

Research Assistant to Dr. Charee Thompson	2021 – 2022
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Administrative

Peer Leader, CMN 101: Public Speaking	2021 – 2022
Social Media Coordinator, Health Communication Online Master's Program	2019 – 2021

AWARDS -----

Top Paper Award , Health Communication Division, National Communication Assoc.	2022
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Henry L. Mueller Award , Dept. of Communication Awarded to department's most outstanding new teaching assistant.	2021
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List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning
Terms: Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Senior 100 Honorary , Student Alumni Ambassadors Awarded to top 100 seniors in the Class of 2020, demonstrating leadership in and out of the classroom.	2020
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Joseph Wenzel Award , Dept. of Communication Awarded for distinguished achievement as an undergraduate student.	2020
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Aimee Olson Award , Volunteer Illini Projects Awarded for strong leadership and enthusiasm in serving Champaign-Urbana community.	2019
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FELLOWSHIPS -----

Wayne Brockriede Graduate Fellowship	2022 – 2026
Elizabeth Winter Young Summer Fellowship	2021

SERVICE -----

President, Graduate Student's Association	2022 – 2023
Advisory Committee Member, Asian American Cultural Center	2021 – 2022
Ad hoc Manuscript Reviewer, <i>Journal of Social and Personal Relationships</i>	2022