

VICTORIA T. FIELDS

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BIO

Ph.D student and Graduate Teaching Assistant in the Department of Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). Her research interests include, rhetoric, intercultural communication, race/ethnicity and gender/sexuality studies. My work has been published in Volume 11 of the *Eastern Michigan University McNair Scholars Journal* and the *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*.

EDUCATION**Ph.D in Communication,**

Expected Graduation: May 2025

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Champaign, IL

Master of Arts in Communication,

Expected Graduation: May 2021

University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Champaign, IL

Advisor: Dr. J. David Cisneros

Bachelor of Science, Communication and Sport Management,

Summa Cum Laude, 2019

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

Advisor: Dr. Dennis O’Grady

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, Champaign, IL**

August 2019 – Present

Graduate College Executive Committee**Graduate Representative**

August 2021 – Present

- Campus-wide policymaking body for graduate education

University of Illinois Summer Teaching Institute

June 2021

Participant

- Enhancing instruction through the use of multimodal approaches, innovative assessment,

and strategies for increasing student engagement

Teaching Assistantships

August 2019 – Present

- Instructor of Record: CMN 101: Public Speaking
 - Fall 2019 (1 section)
 - Spring 2020 (1 section)
 - Fall 2020 (2 sections)
 - Spring 2021 (2 sections)
- Instructor of Record: CMN 210: Public Communication in Everyday Life
 - Summer 2021 (1 section)
- Instructor of Record: CMN 340: Visual Politics
 - Fall 2021 (1 section)
 - Spring 2022 (2 sections)
- Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, “List of Teachers Ranked as “Excellent” by Their Students, Fall 2019, Fall *2020, Spring *2021
 - *Ratings were “Outstanding”

Students Advising on Graduate Education (SAGE) – Volunteer

August 2020 – May 2021

- Member, graduate student advisory board
- Provided counsel for Graduate College programs, resources, and services that improve the University’s diversity, equity and inclusion initiative

Department of Communication

Research Assistant

January 2020 – May 2020

- Assisted Dr. J. David Cisneros, Associate Professor, with upcoming research projects

Department of Communication

Research Assistant

August 2021 – December 2021

- Assisting Dr. Cara Finnegan, Associate Head, Professor, with upcoming research projects

National Communication Association (NCA)

- NCA Reviewer for the Communication and Sport Division
 - Spring 2020
- NCA Reviewer for the Rhetorical Communication and Theory Division
 - Spring 2020
- NCA Chair for Engaging in Rhetorical Scholarship in Intercultural Context
 - November 2020
 - Sponsor: Rhetorical Communication and Theory Division
 - Co-Sponsor: International and Intercultural Communication Division

NCA Communication and Sport Graduate Representative

November 2019 – November 2020

- Assisted Division with decision-making
- Reviewed submissions for division
- Paired graduate students with faculty members for mentoring

Eastern Michigan University

September 2015 – May 2019

Title IX Ambassador

January 2019 – April 2019

Title IX Office

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

Informed on-campus groups, students and faculty about Title IX

- Helped coordinate Title IX events and activities on campus

Research/Public Relations Intern

September 2018 – April

2019 Equality Research Center for LGBTQ+ faculty development

Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI

- Helped advance social justice for LGBTQ+ members on campus
- Assisted with public programming and speaking events
- Promoted, supported and disseminated research focused on LGBTQ+ rights
- Conducted research on equality issues regarding LGBTQ+ to create awareness

Senior Intern for Women's Soccer and Athletic Marketing

May 2017 – December 2017

Eastern Michigan University Athletic Marketing Department, Ypsilanti MI

- Managed and supervised interns
- Managed and developed game-day promotions
- Researched and contacted youth teams to participate in game-day promotions
- Promoted and provided updates of games through social media
- Wrote PA Scripts for Media Relations team
- Ran and provided music for fans
- Guerilla/grassroots marketing on campus
- Increased student attendance for EMU spring/fall sports

Student Ticket Sales Employee – Men's Basketball and Football

September 2016 – March 2017

University of Michigan Athletic Ticket Office, Ann Arbor, MI

- Assisted with game-day office operations
- Distributed public will call tickets
- Distributed tickets to player's families, recruits and coaches
- Contributed to game-day sales and revenue

Student Women's Basketball Manager

January 2016 – April 2016

Eastern Michigan University Women's Basketball Team, Ypsilanti, MI

- Assisted players and coaches throughout practice and games
- Handled scoreboard and clock for team throughout practice
- Prepared refreshments for players
- Rebounded for players
- Participated in game-day operations for team

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign****Healing Healthcare Disparities among BIPOC Patients through Virtual Reality Cultural Competency Training**

January 2021 – Present

- \$10,000 research grant to develop a comprehensive virtual reality cultural competency training program for medical students across the country through the University of Illinois Health-Maker Lab

Micro-aggression Training Program

January 2020 – Present

- Developing a comprehensive micro-aggression training program for University of Illinois students, faculty and staff
- Facilitated focus groups to assess training program in classrooms
- Head Facilitators: Mardia Bishop, Ph.D and Kris Weeks, Ph.D

Summer Pre-Doctoral Institute (SPI)**Graduate Research Fellow - Lead Researcher****Advisor: J. David Cisneros, Ph.D. Professor of Communication**

May 2019 – July 2019

“Examining President Trump’s Rhetorical Influence on American Polices Hispanic Immigrant Communities and Exclusionary Practices”

- This study aimed to understand how President Trump implements old racism and new racism ideologies into his rhetoric concerning Latino/a immigrant communities in the U.S.

Eastern Michigan University**Honors College Thesis****Undergraduate Research Fellow - Lead Researcher****Advisor: Dennis O’Grady, Ph.D., Professor of Communication**

September 2018 – March 2019

“How Does Media Frame Gender Identity? A Closer Look at How High School Transgender Athlete Mack Beggs Was Portrayed in the Media”

- This study aimed to understand how rhetoric was used to depict female-to-male high school transgender athlete, Mack Beggs. I utilized a rhetorical discourse analysis to examine media messages from parents and competitors.

EMU McNair Scholars Program Researcher - Lead Researcher

September 2017 – August 2018

Advisor: Dennis O’Grady, Ph.D., Professor of Communication

“The Rhetorical Discourse Surrounding Female Intersex Athletes”

- This study utilized a qualitative approach to analyze interviews and media content of female intersex athletes.
- A theoretical framework was created to analyze how discourse surrounding female intersex athletes have evolved from the 1936 Berlin Olympics to present-day Olympics.

Ohio State University

Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)

Undergraduate Research Fellow

Advisor: Chris Knoester, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology

June 2018 – July 2018

“Mother-Child Engagement in Sport and Outdoor Activities: Implications and Patterns”

- This study aimed to understand how sport and outdoor activities influence the overall closeness and well-being of mother–child relationships, while also considering the implications and patterns of those relationships.
- Data from Fragile Families Child Well–Being Study was used for the project and Stata Statistical Software was used to analyze surveys and interviews.

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

Fields, V. T. (in progress). “Book Review: Politics for the Love of Fandom: Fan-Based Citizenship in a Digital World. *Quarterly Journal of Speech*.”

Knoester, C. & **Fields, V. T.** (in progress). “Public attitudes towards transgender and non-binary individuals”

Weeks, K., Bishop, M., **Fields, V. T.**, Hindsley, A. (in progress). “An assessment of micro-aggression training on college campuses”

Fields, V. T. (in progress). A critical examination of Mary Church Terrell’s speech, “What it Means to be Colored in the U.S. Capital”

Knoester, C., & **Fields, V. T.** (2019). Mother–child engagement in sports and outdoor activities: Intensive mothering, purposive leisure, and implications for health and relationship closeness. *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1012690219855916>

Fields, V. T. (2018). The Rhetorical Discourse Surrounding Female Intersex Athletes. *McNair Scholars Research Journal*, 11(1), 30–43.
doi:https://commons.emich.edu/mcnair/vol11/iss1/5

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Fields, V. T., & Bencivenga, S. V., (2021, November). *Inclusionary Practices in the Classroom: Tools to Transform Your Classroom to an Inclusive Space*. Short Course accepted at the 107th Annual National Communication Association. Seattle, Washington.

Fields, V. T. (2021, May). *Standing Her Ground: Ieshia Evans, Embodiment Discourse and Implications for Visual Rhetoric*. TAMU Communicating Diversity Student Conference. Virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. Bencivenga, S. V., Bishop, M. J., & Thompson, C. M. (2021, Winner). *Using VR and cultural competence training to promote health and equity among BIPOC patients*. \$10,000. Health Make-a-Thon Competition, Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. Bencivenga, S. V., Bishop, M. J., & Thompson, C. M. (2021, Finalist). *Using VR and cultural competence training to promote health and equity among BIPOC patients*. \$10,000. Health Make-a-Thon Competition, Carle Illinois College of Medicine. Virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. (2020, November). *Mary Church Terrell: A Critical Analysis of “What It Means To Be Colored in the U.S Capital.”* Paper Presentation accepted at the 106th Annual National Communication Association. African American Communication and Culture Division. Indianapolis, IN. Virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. (2020, November). *How Does Media Frame Gender Identity? A Closer Look at How High School Transgender Athlete Mack Beggs Was Portrayed in the Media*. Paper Presentation accepted at the 106th Annual National Communication Association. Research in Progress Roundtables. Indianapolis, IN. Virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Bishop, M., Blinne, K. C., Weeks, K., **Fields, V. T.** & Hindsley, A. (2020, November). *Moving toward Justice through Microaggression Activism*. Panel accepted at the 106th Annual National Communication Association. Activism and Social Justice Division. Indianapolis, IN. Virtual due to Covid-19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. (2020, September). *Colin Kaepernick and Roger Goodell: The Unique Relationship Between the NFL and Black Athletes*. Poster Presentation accepted at the Organizational Communication Mini Conference. Graduate Research in Progress Session. Virtual due to COVID–19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. (2020, May). *Examining the Co-existence of Old Racism and New Racism Ideologies within President Trump’s Immigration Rhetoric*. Paper Presentation accepted at the 19th Biennial Rhetoric Society of America Conference. Portland, OR. Conference subsequently canceled due to COVID–19 pandemic.

Fields, V. T. (2019, November). *The Rhetorical Discourse Surrounding Female Intersex Athletes*. Paper Presentation at 105th Annual National Communication Association. Student Section. Baltimore, MD.

Knoester, C., & **Fields, V. T.** (2019, November). *Mother-Child Engagement in Sports and Outdoor Activities: Intensive Mothering, Purposive Leisure, and Implications for Health and Relationship Closeness*. Paper Presentation at the North American Sociology of Sport Conference. Sport Participation and Family Division. Virginia Beach, VA.

Fields, V. T. (2019, July). *Examining Trump's Rhetorical Influence on American Polices Hispanic Immigrant Communities and Exclusionary Practices*. Roundtable Discussion at the Illinois Summer Research Symposium. Champaign, IL.

Fields, V. T. (2019, July). *How Presidential Immigration Rhetoric Impacts Society Policies and Culture*. Research Proposal at the Illinois Summer Research Symposium. Champaign, IL.

Romerhausen, R., Winkleseth, M., & **Fields, V. T.** (2019, March) Narrative Preservation Strategies in the Digital Archives of the LGBTQ+ Community. Paper Presentation at the Michigan Academy Conference. Alma, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2018, September). *The Age of Female Intersex Athletes*. Paper Presentation at the EMU McNair Scholars Research Colloquium. Ypsilanti, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2018, September). *How Frequently Do Mothers Engage in Sport and Outdoor Activities with their Nine- Year Old Children? An Analysis of the Health Implications and Patterns of Mother-Child Sport and Outdoor Participation*. Paper Presentation at The Heartland McNair Scholars Research Conference. Kansas City, MO.

Fields, V. T. (2018, July). *Mother-Child Sport and Outdoor Activity Engagement: Implications and Patterns*. Poster Presentation at The Ohio State University Summer Research Opportunities Program Symposium. Columbus, OH.

Fields, V. T. (2018, March). *Examining the Educational Challenges of Children Affected by the Flint Water Crisis*. Paper Presentation at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Ypsilanti, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2018, March). *Female Intersex Athletes in Olympic Sports*. Paper Presentation at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Ypsilanti, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2018, March). *Female Intersex Athletes in Olympic Sports*. Paper Presentation at the National McNair Conference at the University of Maryland. College Park, MD.

Fields, V. T. (2017, December). *The Potential Health Challenges Faced by Children Affected by the Flint Water Crisis*. Paper Presentation at the McNair Scholars Research Symposium. Ypsilanti, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2017, March). *How Caffeine Affects Athletes: An Analysis of How Caffeine is Similar to other Banned Drugs*. Paper Presentation at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Ypsilanti, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2017, March). *Androgynous Athletes in Professional Sports*. Paper Presentation at the Eastern Michigan University Undergraduate Research Symposium. Ypsilanti, MI.

Fields, V. T. (2016, December). *How Does Caffeine Affect One's Athletic Performance?* Paper Presentation at the McNair Scholars Research Symposium. Ypsilanti, MI.

<p>SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS</p>

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- “So Good They Can’t Ignore You” panel presentation for prospective graduate students in the ASPIRE program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Virtual presentation via Zoom (September, 2021)
- “Surviving and Thriving at Illinois” panel presentation for new graduate students for University of Illinois Department of Communication (September, 2021)
- Presented Micro-aggression Workshop to incoming Summer Pre-Doctoral (SPI) Students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Virtual presentation via Zoom (July, 2021)
- Presented a Micro-aggression Workshop to administration staff at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Virtual presentation via Zoom. (March, 2021).
- Presented a Micro-aggression Workshop to Communication faculty members across the country. Virtual presentation via Zoom (January, 2021)
- “Scholars Speak: Humanities, Arts, and Education” panel presentation for the University of Illinois Graduate College. Virtual presentation via Zoom (October, 2020)
- “Surviving Graduate School at Illinois” panel presentation for new graduate students for University of Illinois Department of Communication Zoom presentation. (September, 2020)

Eastern Michigan University

- Recruited students to Eastern Michigan University and the Sport Management baccalaureate program. Ypsilanti, MI (May, 2019)
- Master of Ceremony for Eastern Michigan University’s 39th Annual Undergraduate

Research Symposium Luncheon. Ypsilanti, MI (March, 2019)

- Master of Ceremony for Eastern Michigan University's 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., President's Luncheon. Ypsilanti, MI (January, 2019)
- *Discrimination Faced by Intersex and Transgender Athletes*. Presentation at the McNair Scholars: New Research for a New Era Panel. Ypsilanti, MI (January, 2018)

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Wayne Brockriede Graduate Fellowship in Communication, \$7,500 Award, August 2021– May 2023
- Elizabeth Winter Young Fellowship - Communication Department, \$4,000 Award, June 2020 – July 2020
- Friends of the Department Travel Award for Graduate Conference Presentations, University of Illinois Department of Communication, Fall 2019 (\$800) and Fall 2021 (\$500)
- NCA Student Caucus Travel Grant – Fall 2019 (\$150)
- ASPIRE Research Fellowship - Communication Department, \$20,000 Award, August 2019 – May 2020
- Summer Pre–Doctoral Institute (SPI) Graduate Research Fellowship, \$4,000 Award, May 2019 – July 2019

Eastern Michigan University

- EMU Honors College - Senior Thesis Fellowship Recipient, \$2,000 Award, December 2018 – April 2019
- McNair Research Scholar, EMU McNair Scholars Program, TRIO, \$1,900 Award, September 2016 – April 2019

Ohio State University

Ohio State University – Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP)

- SROP Big Ten Alliance - Patrick S. Osmer Fellowship, \$25,000 Award, July 2018
*contingent on acceptance into graduate program
- SROP Big Ten Academic Alliance - Undergraduate Research Fellow, \$3,000 Award,

SELECTED LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES

June 2018 – July 2018

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Department of Communication Enacting Diversity Committee

Graduate Representative

April 2021-Present

**We Champaign-Urbana (CU) Community-Engaged Scholars Program
Community Data Clinic and Historical Subdivision Research Committee
Team Leader**

January 2021 – April 2021

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Champaign-Urbana Scholars Program

- Developed a historic district designation for a Black majority subdivision in Champaign, Illinois

Department of Communication Mentor

August 2020 – Present

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Mentoring incoming graduate students
- Pass on Department culture
- Forge connections with new students
- Communicate social and professional expectations
- Be a resource in the Department
- Assist in the culmination of teaching/instructor videos for graduate teaching assistants.
- Help implement diversity/micro-aggression training that will be used within 55 Public Speaking courses
- Host prospective students for Department of Communication Welcome Weekend

EngineerSPEAK, Grainger College of Engineering

October 2019

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Assisted engineering students with public communication skills

Eastern Michigan University

Honors College Mentor

September 2017 – April 2018

Eastern Michigan University Honors College, Ypsilanti, MI

- Met with students bi-week
- Directed students to resources on campus
- Offered encouragement, support and academic advice
- Maintaining confidentiality

EMU Sport Management Club Vice President

December 2017 – April 2018

- Recruited new members
- Planned monthly events and activities
- Coordinated student organization fundraising efforts
- Assisted President with oversight of organization

EMU McNair Organization of Student Trailblazers (MOST) Treasurer

September 2017 – April 2018

- Responsible for collecting/budgeting organization's money
- Recruited new members
- Helped prepare annual budget
- Advised members on financial matters

<p>PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/AFFILIATIONS</p>

- National Communication Association
- North American Sociology of Sport
- Rhetoric Society of America
- Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory