

Daniel Kulesza

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Media Psychology | Social Cognition | Moral Psychology | Interpersonal Communication |
Intergroup Communication | Entertainment Education | Narrative Persuasion

EDUCATION

- PhD** *Communication*, expected 2028
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
Advisor: Dr. Lindsay Hahn
Specialization: Cognitive Science
- MA** *Communication*, 2024
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
Thesis: *Title blinded for peer review.*
Advisor: Dr. Lindsay Hahn
- BA** *Communication*, 2016
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
- AS** *Communication and Media Arts*, 2008
SUNY Erie Community College

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Media Psychology & Morality Lab, led by: Dr. Lindsay Hahn
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Fall 2022 – present)
Research assistant involved in study and stimulus design, data collection, and data reporting.

UB Narrative Lab, led by: Dr. Melanie Green
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Fall 2022 – present)
Research assistant involved in study and stimulus design review.

UB Social Well-Being Lab, led by: Dr. David S Lee
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Spring 2024 – present)
Research assistant involved in study and stimulus design, data collection, and data reporting.

UB Graduate Assistant, supervised by: Dr. Thomas Feeley
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Spring 2024 – Summer 2024)
Graduate assistant involved in literature review.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Kulesza, D., Hahn, L., & Raney, A. A. (2025). *Title blinded for peer review*. [Manuscript submitted for publication]. *Communication Studies*.

Kulesza, D., & Lee, D. S. *Learning How to Give Effective Social Support: Exploring the Role of Personality and Motivation – Study III*.
Status: Materials development in progress.

Velho, R. M., Chen, H., **Kulesza, D.,** & Black, E. *Partisanship in Moral Responses to Immigrants Causing Harm. – Study II*.
Status: Grant proposal in progress.

Kulesza, D., Hahn, L., Lapan, E., & Chen, H. *Mass Shooting Newspaper Coverage Content Analysis*.
Status: Data analysis - coding.

Raffloer, G., Green, M., **Kulesza, D.,** & Chen, H. *Morality and the Machine: How we React to Mistreatment of Artificial Intelligence*.
Status: Materials development in progress.

Wahl, J., Hahn, L., Taggart, M., Chen, H., Lattimer, T., Andreeva, I., **Kulesza, D.,** & Raney, A. A. *Examining whether moral clarity in stories is necessary for moral comprehension*.
Status: Materials development in progress.

Kulesza, D., & Hahn, L. *The Mediating Role of Perspective-Taking in Mediated Contact Effects*.
Status: Materials development in progress.

Kulesza, D., *Meta-Analysis of Empathy in Mediated Contact Effects*.
Status: Sampling framework in development.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Grader, Communication Skills (MGG636; Dr. Aisha O'Mally)
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Summer 2025)

Graduate Teaching Mentor, Statistics I (COM518; Dr. Lindsay Hahn)

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Spring 2025)

Guest Lecture, *Statistics I* (COM518; Dr. Lindsay Hahn)

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Spring 2025)

Topic: Data Cleaning and Introduction to SPSS

Graduate Teaching Assistant, *Principles of Communication* (COM101; Dr. Zachary Carr)

University at Buffalo, The State University of New York (Fall 2024 – Spring 2025)

ACADEMIC COURSE EXPERIENCE

Teaching Sociology (Dr. Cathleen Morreale & Dr. Jeffrey Kohler)

Pedagogical course on course design, inclusive teaching strategies, assessment methods, and professional development for higher education instruction.

Audience Analysis & Program Evaluation (Dr. Helen Wang)

Advanced research methods course emphasizing development and evaluation of interventions. Interest aims are intervention development and evaluation to reduce prejudice and radicalization.

- Final report on video game modifications for mitigating extremism shared with EU partners connected to La Benevolencija's Horns of Justice project.

Entertainment-Education for Health Promotion and Social Change (Dr. Helen Wang)

Theory course on EE strategies for health promotion and social change. Interests focus on empathy and prejudice reduction through entertainment-education.

- Research proposal developed evaluating *Life is Strange: True Colors* for empathy development and prejudicial attitude reduction.

Meta-analysis (Dr. Thomas Feeley)

Advanced methods course on meta-analysis techniques and interpretation.

- Meta-analysis project in development on state empathy and intergroup anxiety's mediating roles in mediated contact effects, across intervention types and outgroup categories.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & POSTERS

Kulesza, D., Hahn, L., & Raney, A. A. (2025, November) *Title blinded for peer review*. [Paper Submitted]. 111th annual convention of the National Communication Association, Denver, Colorado.

Velho, R. M., Chen, H., **Kulesza, D.**, & Black, E. (2025, September). *Partisanship Governing Moral Responses to News about Immigrants Inflicting Harm*. [Abstract Accepted]. Partisanship and Misinformation about Minority Groups panel, Division 38: Political Communication, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. *(To be presented by H. Chen)*

Kulesza, D. (2025). *Specifying the Multidimensional Nature of Empathy and Considering Its Impact on Theory*. [Poster Presentation]. Moral Media Conference, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA.

Raffloer, G., Green, M., **Kulesza, D.**, & Chen, H. (2025). *Morality and the Machine: How we React to Mistreatment of Artificial Intelligence*. [Poster Presentation]. Moral Media Conference, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA. (Presented by G. Raffloer)

Velho, R. M., Chen, H., **Kulesza, D.**, & Black, E. (2025). *Partisanship in Moral Responses to Immigrants Causing Harm*. [Poster Accepted, Not Presented]. Moral Media Conference, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA.

Kulesza, D., Hahn, L., & Raney, A. A. (2025). *Title blinded for peer review*. [Poster Presentation]. Cognitive Science Emerging Scholars Symposium, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, USA.

Taggart, M., Andreeva, I., Lattimer, T., **Kulesza, D.**, & Hahn, L. (2024). *A Conceptual Replication of Research Investigating the Moral Roots of Extreme Prejudice*. [Abstract Presentation]. National Communication Association's Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, USA. (Presented by M. Taggart)

AWARDS AND HONORS

Communication Research Advancement Award (Spring, 2024)
- University at Buffalo, SUNY, Department of Communication

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND SERVICE

Graduate Student Member of the Center for Cognitive Science, University at Buffalo (CCS)
- PhD Track Application Submitted (April 2025)

Session Chair, *Moral Media Conference*, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY (April 2025)

International Communication Association (ICA)
- Interpersonal Communication Division
- Mass Communication Division

National Communication Association (NCA)
- Interpersonal Communication Division
- Mass Communication Division

Communication Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo (CGSA)
- Board of Directors Member (Fall 2024 - Present)

Cognitive Science Graduate Student Association, University at Buffalo

EMPLOYMENT

University at Buffalo, SUNY (2024 - Present)

- Grader, 2025
- Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2024 - Present
- Graduate Research Assistant, 2024

Hearst DMS (2011 - 2022)

- Digital Marketing Account Manager Team Lead, 2020 - 2022
- Digital Marketing Account Manager, 2015 - 2020
- Digital Marketing Partnership Specialist, 2012 - 2015
- Social Media Strategist, 2011 - 2012

The Buffalo News (2010 - 2011)

- Direct Mail Engraver Tech

ZeldaDungeon.net (2007 - 2010)

- *ZeldaInformer* Launch Webmaster, Project & Community Manager

Baillie Lumber Co. (2008 - 2009)

- Computer Support Specialist