Afrooz Mosallaei (A.B.D.)

A mixed-methods digital media & policy researcher, examining visual communication on social media in the context of climate change & social movements.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Journalism & Media Studies
Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ
2021 – May 2025

- **School of Communication & Information**
- Dissertation: *Navigating climate change news: Exploring platformization of climate-related news on Instagram*
- Primary advisor: Prof. Lauren Feldman
- GPA: 4.00

M.S. in Communication, Culture, & Media
Drexel University

Philadelphia, PA
2021

- GPA: 4.00

B.A. in Photography
University of Tehran

Tehran, Iran
2018

- GPA: 3.76 (First-ranked)

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Research Affiliate
Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, Yale University

New Haven, CT
2024 –

- Collaborating with the experimental research team to examine the effectiveness of heat wave news imagery.

Visiting Fellow
Information Society Project, Yale Law School

New Haven, CT
2024 –

- Engaging with interdisciplinary scholars to explore how media policy fosters responsible journalism and public engagement with climate issues, aiming to deepen understanding of the legal and policy dimensions of digital news dissemination.

Media Policy Research Fellow
Free Press

Washington, D.C.
June – July 2024

- **Fellowship awarded by the Consortium on Media Policy Studies (COMPASS)**, a program of the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers University's Media, Inequality & Change Center.
- Worked with the Future of Journalism team to collect and compile information about Wisconsin's local news ecosystem, demographics, and political structures.
- Worked with the Digital Justice and Civil Rights group to craft best practices for journalists covering online extremism, resulting in a sign-on letter to media executives.
- Published an op-ed exploring social media platforms' potential in addressing climate change.

Research Assistant
Drexel University

Philadelphia, PA
2020

- Assisted Prof. Douglas Porpora in gathering Twitter data for a research project analyzing the discussions around the 2020 presidential elections.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- **Mosallaei, A.** (2024). Protest paradigm revisited: Is depicting protesters' (counter)violence really wrong? *Digital Journalism*, 1-20.
- **Mosallaei, A.**, & Feldman, L. **(in press)**. Do you see what I see? Perceptions & effects of image-text congruity in online climate change news. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly.*
- **Mosallaei, A.**, & Porpora, D. **(in press)**. Citizen videos vs. legacy media visual reports: How eyewitness imagery becomes a corrective. *International Journal of Communication*.

Work in Progress

- **Mosallaei, A.**, Wang, L., & Ognyanova, K. **(under review)**. From politics to entertainment: Exploring "News Finds Me" perceptions across news topics. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*.
- **Mosallaei, A.**, Thomas-Walters, L., Goldberg, M. H., Rosenthal, S. A., & Leiserowitz, A. **(data collection)**. Examining heatwave imagery: A comparative analysis of risk perception across valence categories.

White Papers

- **Mosallaei, A.** (2024, Sep. 17). Baz-andishi dar nazariat-e khoshoonat-parhizi [Rethinking nonviolence theories]. *RadioZamaneh*.
- **Mosallaei, A.** (2024, July 31). Social media's untapped potential in the climate-change fight. *Free Press*.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

- **Mosallaei, A.** (2023). Do you see what I see? Perceptions and effects of image-text congruity in online climate change news articles. *National Communication Association.*
- Badiei, B., & **Mosallaei, A.** (2023). Multiple erasures: The blind spots of American journalism and the ongoing revolutionary movement in Iran. *Canadian Communication Association.*
- **Mosallaei, A.** (2022). Should I run this photo? A research agenda for examining news photo selection. *Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication.*
- **Mosallaei, A.**, Porpora, D. (2021). Legacy press coverage of the Iranian Bloody November in 2019: A departure from the protest paradigm? *Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication.*
- **Mosallaei, A.**, Porpora, D. (2021). Legacy press and citizen videos: Textual (but not visual) departure from the protest paradigm. *Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication Mid-Winter Conference.*

Teaching Experience

Lecturer

Digital Media Research (graduate course)

Rutgers University   Summer 2022, 2023, 2024

- Guided 22 master's students from initial idea conception to the completion of their research proposals. Provided individualized support and feedback, helping students develop strong research questions, design methodologies, and create comprehensive proposals.
- Received a 4.62/5 teaching effectiveness rating across three courses.

Techniques of Speaking (undergraduate course)

Drexel University   Winter & Spring 2021

- Taught +20 undergraduate students essential public speaking skills, focusing on effective communication techniques.
- Developed and delivered a comprehensive curriculum, encompassing feedback skills, research methods, logical argumentation, rhetoric and word choice, effective use of voice and body language, and adapting to various public speaking genres.

Business Communication (undergraduate course)

Drexel University   Summer & Fall 2020

- Taught +20 undergraduate students, focusing on essential skills of business communication.
- Designed course modules that emphasized collaborative research and report creation, research methods utilizing online and offline databases, digital media, and writing paper proposals for business topics.

TEACHING ASSISTANT ....

Rutgers University   New Brunswick, NJ

School of Communication & Information

- **Introduction to Media** (Spring 2023, Fall 2024)
- **Digital Media Research** (Spring 2022, Fall & Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
- **Ethics, Values, & Change in Information Practices** (Fall 2023)
- **Gender, Race, & Class in the Media** (Fall 2022)

Drexel University   Philadelphia, PA

Department of Communication

- **Theory & Models of Communication** (Winter 2020)
- **Principles of Communication** (Winter 2020)
- **Digital Ethnography** (Fall 2019)
- **Language in Society** (Fall 2019)

HONORS & AWARDS

Top Student Paper Award, AEJMC 105th Annual Conference   2022
  Student Travel Grant, AEJMC 105th Annual Conference   2022
Kappa Tau Alpha Award Journalism Honor Society   2022
Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, Rutgers University, School of Comm. & Info 2022
Teck-Kah Lim Graduate Student Domestic Travel Award, Drexel University   2021
Dean's Fellowship, Drexel University   2019 – 2021
Fellowship for Elite Undergraduate Students, Iran's National Elites Foundation 2013 – 2018

Academic Service

Journal Reviewer, *Journalism Studies; International Journal of Communication*   2022 –

Panel Co-Organizer & Chair, The future of news images in a social media world, The *AEJMC* 106th Annual Conference   2023

Conference Reviewer, *International Communication Association*   2024

Invited Panelist, "Woman, Life, Freedom": Reporting #MahsaAmini protests in solidarity, Solidarity Journalism Initiative, Center for Media Engagement, University of Texas at Austin   2023

Panel Co-Organizer & Co-Chair, Iranian uprisings and (non)mainstream journalism: Possibilities and limitations, Dept. of Journalism & Media Studies, Rutgers University   2023

Board Member, Doctoral Students Association, School of Comm. & Info, Rutgers University   2022 – 2023

Conference Reviewer, *The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication International Communication Association*   2022

Board Member, Communication, Culture, and Media Graduate Students Association, Drexel University   2020 – 2021

Head of Organization Committee, The Annual Photo Exhibition, School of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran   2017

Professional Associations

National Communication Association, Visual Communication Division   2023 –

Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication, Visual Communication Division   2021 –

Selected Professional Experience

Visual Content Strategist   Tehran, Iran
Badkoobeh Advertising Agency   Mar. 2018 – Mar. 2019

Video Journalist & Translator   Tehran, Iran
mba News Marketing Agency   June 2016 – Feb. 2018

Photo Exhibitions

Tasvir Project, Northlight Gallery   Phenoix, AZ
Group exhibition of the selected Iranian image-based art at
Arizona State University   2024

Fotografia Europea Edizione   Reggio Emilia, Italy
Group exhibition titled *A Window onto Contemporary Art
Photography*, Iran section   2018

1st & 2nd Annual Photo Exhibitions of University of Tehran   Tehran, Iran
    2017 & 2018

REFERENCES

Lauren Feldman, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Ph.D. Advisor
lauren.feldman@rutgers.edu

Katherine Ognyanova, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Dissertation Committee Member
katya.ognyanova@rutgers.edu

Susan Keith, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Dissertation Committee Member
susank@comminfo.rutgers.edu