

Carey L. Higgins-Dobney, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Portland State University, 2018, Urban Studies

Dissertation: News work: The impact of corporate newsroom culture on news workers & community reporting

Concentrations: Community Development & Mass Media

Recipient of Toulon School Dean's Award for dissertation research

M.S., Portland State University, 2005, Communication Studies

Thesis: Does the “news” come first? Social responsibility, infotainment, and local television newscasts in Portland, Oregon: A content analysis

Concentrations: Mass Media & Research Methods

B.A. Journalism, University of Georgia, 1997, Telecommunication Arts

Minor: Spanish Magna cum Laude with High Honors

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, University of Kentucky, 2022-present

Media Arts & Studies

JOU 404: Wildcat News/Advanced Television News**

MAS 201: Communication Technology & Society**#^

MAS 312: Television Studio Production**

MAS 403: Live Television Production**

MAS 442: Advanced Multi-Cam Studio Production*

JAM 395: Independent Study – Advanced Live TV Production

JAM 399: Wildcat News/Big Blue Banter internship supervisor

*Proposed and designed new course

**Redesigned course

#Updated for core curriculum inclusion

^Updated for distance learning

Assistant Professor, California State University, Fresno, 2018-2022

Media, Communications and Journalism

MCJ 13 (formerly MCJ113): Intro to Studio Video Production**

MCJ 14: Multimedia and Mobile Journalism**

MCJ 113/136: Advanced Television Production (taught as Media Projects)*

MCJ 115: Field Video Production

MCJ 121: News Video Production*

MCJ 123/177t/190: *Fresno State Focus Crew**

MCJ 128: TV/Multimedia News Reporting (Broadcast/Multiplatform Capstone)

MCJ 177t: Career Portfolio**

MCJ 178: New Media Technologies (upper division GE)

MCJ 190: Independent Study

Designed & implemented undergraduate Studio Production certificate

*Proposed and designed new course

**Designed or redesigned course

Part Time Faculty, Clackamas Community College, 2016-2018

Journalism

J220: Introduction to Broadcast Journalism**

J221: Intermediate Broadcast Journalism**

J222: Advanced Broadcast Journalism**

J280: Journalism Cooperative Work Experience

**Redesigned course

Adjunct Faculty, Portland State University, 2011

University Studies

UNST 243: Sophomore Inquiry: Media Studies

Graduate Research Assistant, Portland State University, 2009-2010

Urban Studies

Research assistant for Dr. Gerald Sussman of the Urban Studies department

LOCAL TELEVISION EXPERIENCE

KGW-TV, Portland, Oregon, 2006-2018

Director/Technical Director/ELC Operator, running audio, video, cameras, and graphics for live news, sports, entertainment and other programming.

Newsroom social media and web posting duties.

KPTV-TV & KPDX-TV, Portland, Oregon, 2000-2006

Newscast and *Sports Extra* Director & Technical Director for live news, sports and other programming. News promotion writing and syndicated editing duties.

WBBH-TV & WZVN-TV, Fort Myers, Florida, 1998-2000

Newscast Director, Technical Director, Production Assistant & Video Editor.

University News, Athens, Georgia, 1997

All production positions for the University of Georgia's live daily newscast.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2025). Revisiting news work: The impact of corporate technology use on U.S. tv newsroom labor. *Journalism Practice*, online first

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Make slot, not art: Creativity and burnout in U.S. local television newsrooms. *Journalism Practice*, online first

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2021). Not on air, but online: The labor conditions of the digital journalist in U.S. local television newsrooms. *Electronic News*, 15(3-4)

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2020). News work: The impact of corporate-implemented technology on local television newsroom labor. *Journalism Practice*, 15(8), 1054-1071

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. & Sussman, G. (2013). The growth of TV news, the demise of the journalism profession. *Media, Culture & Society*, 35(7), 847-863

BOOK CHAPTERS & INVITED CONTRIBUTIONS

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2026). Chapter 19: History and New Media Technologies. In B. Frisby & R. Kaufmann (Eds.) *Teaching Communication Volume IV: Instructional Resources*. Cognella

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Unions strike a balance of power between newsroom workers and newsroom owners. Response to Assmann, K.'s (2024) We've got a union, now what? *Journalism & Communication Monographs*, 26(2), 169-172

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2021). Producing in precarity: A focus on freelancing in U.S. local television newsrooms. In Chadha, K. & L. Steiner (Eds.) *Newswork and Precarity* (pp. 71-83). Routledge

Sussman, G. & Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2016). The planned obsolescence of tv journalism. In R. Maxwell (Ed.) *The Routledge Companion to Labor & Media* (pp. 230-241). New York, New York: Taylor & Francis

Republished (2017) in V. Mosco, G. Murdoch, and J. Yao (Eds.) *Digital Labour in the Media Industries: A Western Perspective*, (pp. 142-161). Shanghai Translation Publishing House

Higgins, C.L. & Sussman, G. (2007). Plugola: News for profit, entertainment, and network consolidation. In T.A. Gibson & M. Lowes (Eds.) *Urban Communication: Production, Text, Context* (pp. 141-164). Lanham, Maryland: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (in manuscript preparation). Working title: Stressed out, checked out and burned out: The impact of endless drama and trauma on U.S. local

television news employees

PRESENTATIONS

Higgins, Dobney, C.L. (2025). Revisiting news work in 2024: Technology use by corporate owners and its impact on local television newsroom labor. Research paper presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada. *1st place award for News Division Open Paper competition.*

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2025). Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon: The art of leading student-led media projects. Presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2025). We'll do it live (streaming) on social media and website. Presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2025). From student to teacher: Making the transition with a bachelor's degree. Organizer & moderator for discussion panel at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). On air, online and over-the-top: Impacts of technology on labor in U.S. local TV newsrooms. Organizer, moderator & presenter for research panel at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Journalism in diverse contexts: From AI to podcasts to rural journalism. Discussant for refereed research paper session at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Tackling the technology of the control room: Best practices for teaching the tech of live production. Presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Where do we go now? Teaching social media in the era of X. Organizer & moderator for panel at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2024). Video Killed the _____ Star. A Great Ideas For Teaching (G.I.F.T) Poster presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium in Lexington, Kentucky.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2023). Make Slot Not Art: Creativity, Alienation and Burnout in U.S. Local Television Newsrooms. Paper presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication in Washington, D.C.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2023). Square Pegs & Round Holes: The Adventures of “Oddball” Faculty Bridging Media Specialties in Academia. Organizer & moderator for panel at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2023). Choose Your Own Adventure: The secret sauce for teaching production classes of mixed majors. Presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2022). College students and community media: Partnerships with PEG and other outlets. Organizer for panel at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2022). News Division - Top Paper Presentations. Organizer and moderator of research paper competition panel at the Broadcast Education Association Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2021). Producing in precarity: A focus on freelancing in U.S. local television newsrooms. Paper presented online at the virtual International Communication Association Conference.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2021). Smashing silos: Encouraging student and faculty collaboration across media disciplines. Organizer and moderator at the virtual Broadcast Education Association Conference.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2021). News Division - Top Paper Presentations. Organizer and moderator of research paper competition panel at the virtual Broadcast Education Association Conference.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2020). The labor conditions of the digital journalist in U.S. local television newsrooms. Presented at the virtual Broadcast Education Association On Location conference.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2020). PEG in Peril? Potential impacts of FCC decisions on community media partnerships for student broadcasts and local coverage. Organizer, moderator, and presenter at the virtual Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L (2020). Teaching visually online. Presented online for a Provost's panel at California State University, Fresno.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2020). How do you teach multi-camera production? Presented online at the Broadcast Education Association Conference, "BEA Virtual Vegas."

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2020). #Ready? Preparing students for professional social media use beyond the classroom. Organizer & Moderator for panel presented online at the Broadcast Education Association Conference, "BEA Virtual Vegas."

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2019). Telling the story from Starbucks: The growth of MMJs and death of editorial oversight – Implications for journalistic credibility. Presented at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference in Toronto, Canada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2019). How to convey industry experience from the director's chair into the production classroom to elevate your department's inclusion and diversity curriculum charge. Presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2019). Teaching storytelling on the go: Mobile technology for student production toolboxes. Organizer & Moderator for panel presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2018). News work in the age of consolidated corporate ownership: Navigating corporate profits and the public interest as a newsroom worker. Paper presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada. *3rd place award for News Division Open Paper competition.*

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2017). Technology, flexible labor, corporate expectations, and the local TV newsroom worker. Digital Poster presented at the Broadcast Education Association Conference. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2016). News work: Local television news employees, corporate culture, and the impact on community reporting. Paper presented at the Broadcast Education Association Super-Regional Conference. University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina. *1st place award for Best Student Research in Progress.*

Sussman, G. & Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2015). The planned obsolescence of television journalism. Paper presented at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR). University of Quebec at Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Higgins-Dobney, C.L. (2015). News work: The impact of corporate newsroom culture on news workers & community reporting. Speed Networking event. University of Quebec at Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Higgins, C.L. & Sussman, G. (2012). Impacts of conglomeration and new technology on the local TV newsroom. Presented at What is television? A conference exploring the past, present, and future of television. University of Oregon, Portland, Oregon.

GRANTS

2022, 2021, 2020 Instructionally-Related Activities (IRA) grants to allow students to enter their projects into creative competitions. \$500 per year.

2019 RAISING THE BAR: From awareness to action about the First Amendment at Fresno State! With Nancy Van Leuven, James Boren, Tim Drachlis, Bradley Hart & Betsy Hays. \$2,900.

AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

2025: Broadcast Education Association Conference: 1st place News Division Open Paper competition

2024: Nominated for CI Faculty Teaching Excellence Award at University of Kentucky

2021: Nominated for Promising New Faculty Provost Award by the Media, Communications & Journalism Department at California State University, Fresno

2021: Nominated for Outstanding Advisor Award at California State University, Fresno

2020: Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activities (RSCA) award from California State University, Fresno to work on PEG in Peril research project

2018: Portland State University Toulon School Dean's Award for dissertation research

2018: Broadcast Education Association Conference: 3rd place News Division Open Paper competition

2016: Broadcast Education Association Super-Regional Conference: Top Student Research-In-Progress Award

2015: Marie Brown Travel Award from Portland State University for use at International Association for Media and Communication Research Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Kentucky

School of Journalism and Media Committees

2022-present: Curriculum committee; Co-convener for MAS (2024-present)

2022-present: Scholarship committee

2025: Search committee member for Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Broadcast Journalism

2024: Search committee member for Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Media Arts & Studies

2024: Journalism portfolio requirement subcommittee

2023-2024: Search committee member for open-rank Tenure Track Media Arts & Studies Professor

2023-2024: Student website task force

2023: Search committee member for Tenure Track Journalism and Media Assistant Professor and Broadcast News and Sports Lecturer positions and for IT support specialist III studio/equipment manager position

Other School of Journalism and Media Service

2023: Worked with studio manager Ross Allen and IT head Kenny Ross to fix and update studio staging and production setups ahead of the move to Rupp Arena. This includes clean up and clean out, rearrangement of studio spaces, updated lighting, wiring cleanup, switcher reinstall, graphics connections, prompter updates, monitor connections and a new on-air staging space in the studio.

2022: Worked with studio tech Logan Back and engineer Chris Larmour to fix and update studio staging and production setups ahead of the move to Rupp Arena. This includes fixed lighting, a non-virtual standing monitor set area, an added camera and added video editing/voiceover space.

College of Communication & Information Service

2024-present: Member of Faculty Council

2022-present: Faculty studio expert for new Rupp Arena studios launch meetings, trainings and classes. This includes choosing and assessing the functionality of a wide variety of studio equipment that integrates with control room equipment to provide our students and community with a state-of-the-art studio experience.

2022: Re-established institutional membership with the Broadcast Education Association.

California State University, Fresno

Media, Communications & Journalism Department Committees

2021: Search committee for tenure-track Digital Journalism & Social Justice Assistant Professor position

2019-2022: Studio (Chair: AY 2021-22), Curriculum, Research & IRB, Scholarship, Graduate Program Exploration, World Domination (“Smashing silos”)

2018-2019: Curriculum, Scholarship, Graduate Program Exploration, MCJ Core Curriculum Redevelopment, World Domination (“Smashing silos”)

Other Media, Communications & Journalism Department Service

2021-2022: Faculty supervisor for student engineering assistant

2021: Worked with engineer Terry Dolph and student assistant Ben Cruz to modernize and replace failing equipment in the multimedia studio

2021: Curated and presented top broadcast option video stories for MCJ’s Student Film & Video Showcase as part of Arts in Motion

2020: Dog Days presentations for new MCJ students

2019-2022: Advisor for Broadcast & Multiplatform students

2019: Redesigned news set and studio layout with student assistant Elijah Roberts

2019: Co-emceed the Hall of Fame awards

2019: Co-hosted MCJ table & studio tour for community college promotion

2019: Co-hosted MCJ table for Bulldog Bash

2018-2022: Provided studio tours for area middle & high schoolers interested in MCJ

College of Arts & Humanities Committees

2018-2022: Development

- 2020-2021: Chair
- 2019-2020: Secretary & Vice Chair

Other College of Arts & Humanities Service

2019: Provided field production students to document Thomas Ellis' run of Carmen Jones for the Theatre Arts Department

2018-2022: Provided production crew and support for Theatre for Film workshop run by Thomas Ellis of the Theatre Arts Department

University Committees

2021-2022: Research Subcommittee of the Academic Senate

2020-2021: Tenure-track Faculty Organization: Webmaster & Social Media promotions

Other University Service

2020: Facilitator for Virtual Summer Institute for advanced online teaching. Through the Center for Faculty Excellence

2020: eLearning Faculty Fellow. Provided tutorial videos and presented at a Provost panel about teaching online visually. Through the Center for Faculty Excellence

Clackamas Community College

2017: Scholarship Committee for the Priscilla Buckley Award for women in journalism

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Academic Journals

2021 - present: Peer reviewer for Taylor & Francis journal *Journalism Practice*

2021 - present: Editorial board member of Sage's *Electronic News* journal

2023: Monograph manuscript peer reviewer for Lexington Books, an arm of Rowman & Littlefield

2023: Peer reviewer for Emerald Publishing journal *Employee Relations*

2022: Peer reviewer for Sage journal *Journalism*

2020: Peer reviewer for *KOME* international communication journal

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)

2024: Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) – Broadcast & Mobile Journalism peer review judge for Southeast Colloquium paper submissions

2023-present: Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) – Broadcast & Mobile Journalism peer review judge for main conference research paper submissions

2020: Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) – Electronic News Division peer review judge for main conference research paper submissions

2020: Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) – Electronic News Division peer review judge for Southeast Colloquium research paper submissions

2019: Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) – Electronic News Division peer review judge for BEA – On location conference paper and research-in-progress submissions

Broadcast Education Association (BEA)

Leadership:

2024-present: Chair of the News Division of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). Leads the Executive Committee for the division. Runs division business and membership meetings. Updated Division Bylaws.

2022-2024: Vice Chair of Panels for the News Division of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). Coordinated panel review and selection for main conference programming.

2020-2022: Vice Chair of Research Papers for the News Division of the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). Coordinated peer-reviewed research paper competition for main conference.

Festival of Media Arts judging & Paper peer reviews:

2020-present: Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts judge for student Interactive Media and Emerging Technologies (IMET) projects

2021, 2024-present: Broadcast Education Association (BEA) peer reviewer for BEA – On location conference paper and research in progress submissions

2022: Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts judge for student multi-cam (live or live-to-tape) projects

2019: Broadcast Education Association (BEA) - World Journalism Education Conference (WJEC) Creative Competition judge for student news entries

2017-2018: Broadcast Education Association (BEA) Festival of Media Arts judge for student newscasts 3 days a week or less

Other Professional Service

2021: International Communication Association (ICA) peer reviewer for the Journalism Studies division's international conference paper competition

2021-2022: Hometown Media Awards judge for the national Alliance for Community Media competition

2015- 2016: University of Georgia Grady College Mentor for journalism school students seeking to begin their broadcast careers in the local television news industry

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)

Broadcast Education Association (BEA)
Chair, News Division (elected to leadership AY 2020)

International Communication Association (ICA)