

Destiny Hopkins

<https://destinyahopkins.com> | [Linkedin](#)

Education

- 2023 – 2025 **MA in Communication and Culture**
York University & Toronto Metropolitan University
Thesis: “*What is a Newsfluencer?*”: *Conversations About Identity, Social Media Platforms, and Journalism Boundaries*
Supervisor: Dr. Kelly Bergstrom
- 2019 – 2023 **BA in Criminology and English**
Western University

Research Experience

Research Coordinator, Corner Brook Status of Women Council, Corner Brook, NL, November 2025 – Present

- Coordinating a technology-facilitated gender-based violence research project funded by the National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence to develop educational materials and political advocacy items in Newfoundland and Labrador

Research Assistant, York University, Toronto, ON, October 2023 – Present

- Assisting Dr. Kelly Berstrom on a SSHRC-funded research project studying true crime ethics, fans/fandoms, and Canadian media, including conducting a literature review, interviews, recruiting participants, and collecting and coding data

Teaching Experience

Tutor, Notabilia Education Centre, Markham, ON, February 2024 – Present

- Instructing and assisting students in English from grades two to the first-year of university, both in-person and virtually, including developing sentence and essay structure, literacy (as well as media), vocabulary, and critical analysis skills

Presentations and Publications

CONFERENCES

- October 2026 ACCEPTED: Hopkins, D. (2026). “Not a Journalist, Not an Influencer: How North American News Influencers Navigate Identity and Legitimacy.” Paper accepted at the Association of Internet Researchers in Mexico City.
- October 2026 ACCEPTED: Bergstrom, K., and **Hopkins, D.** “‘I just don’t take her seriously’: How Reddit’s Toxic Technocultures are Shaping the Discussion of True Crime Creators.” Paper accepted at the Association of Internet Researchers in Mexico City.
- June 2026 **Hopkins, D.**, and Bergstrom, K. (2025). “‘A YouTuber Where a Journalist Should Be’:

- Examining Stephanie Soo’s Coverage of the Diddy Trial.” Paper submitted to the Canadian Communication Association Conference at the University of Windsor.
- June 2026 Bergstrom, K., and **Hopkins, D.** (2025). “What is ‘Canadian’ About Canadian True Crime Podcasts?” Paper submitted to the Canadian Communication Association Conference at the University of Windsor.
- June 2025 Hopkins, D. (2025). “Breaking News Boundaries: The Role of Newsfluencers in the Platformization of Journalism.” Paper presented at the Canadian Communication Association Conference at George Brown College.
- June 2025 Bergstrom, K., and **Hopkins, D.** “I Hate True Crime and Makeup Videos: Discussing and Debating the Rise of True Crime Influencers.” Paper presented at the Canadian Communication Association Conference at George Brown College.
- June 2025 **Hopkins, D.**, Waldman, A., and Allain, Z. (2025). “Choose Your Character: Exploring Adolescent Female Roleplaying and Identity-Building on Instagram.” Paper presented at the Canadian Sociological Association Conference at George Brown College.
- December 2024 **Hopkins, D.**, Waldman, A., and Allain, Z. (2024). “#InstagramPlay: Exploring Subcultural and Affordance Theory in Adolescent Female Roleplaying Fandoms.” Paper presented at the Future Communications Conference at Toronto Metropolitan University.
- September 2024 Hopkins, D. (2024). “‘To Future Generations’: Using Soundscape to Preserve Diasporic Cultural Relations of Land, Memory, and Place with Newfoundland Traditional Music.” Paper presented at the Situated Emergences Conference at Concordia University.

INVITED TALKS AND MEDIA

- June 2026 “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.” The Plain Truth, 100.1 Bay FM Radio
- March 2026 “AI Literacy Day.” The Plain Truth, 100.1 Bay FM Radio
- February 2026 “Online Safety and Scam Prevention.” Mountain View Retirement Home
- January 2026 “AI, Youth, and Intimate Images.” The Plain Truth, 100.1 Bay FM Radio
- January 2026 “Cyberstalking: National Stalking Awareness Month.” The Plain Truth, 100.1 Bay FM Radio
- November 2025 “What is Digital Violence?” The Plain Truth, 100.1 Bay FM Radio
- October 2025 “Discussion Panel with Current Scholars: Discover the Student Experience!” Experience Grad York, York University

THESIS

Hopkins, D. (2025). “What is a Newsfluencer?”: Conversations About Identity, Social Media Platforms, and Journalism Boundaries. Pages: 178. York University. <https://hdl.handle.net/10315/43318>

SELECTED NEWS ARTICLES

- Hopkins, D. “Students impacted by eClass outages during midterms amidst ongoing campus Wi-Fi issues.” *Excalibur*, March 13, 2025.
- Hopkins, D. “Post-secondary students inform Toronto’s new Academic Housing Strategy.” *Excalibur*, October 7, 2024.
- Hopkins, D. “Western students on taking a future COVID-19 vaccine.” *The Western Gazette*, December 7, 2020.

Hopkins, D. “Kyle Rittenhouse’s Not-Guilty Verdict Leaves the Left Worried.” *Western Unfiltered*, March 2022.
Hopkins, D. “Racism Is Everywhere – In Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario, It’s In The Mailbox.” *The Odyssey*, June 27, 2020.

CREATIVE NON-FICTION

Hopkins, D. “The Power of Female Friendship.” University of Waterloo #HeForShe Gender Equity Anthology, March 2019.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

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| 2025 | Nominated for a Thesis Award, York University |
| 2024 | Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$15, 000) |
| 2024 | E. B. Rowe Politics & Policy Bursary, York University (\$2, 500) |
| 2023 – 2025 | Graduate Fellowship, York University (\$16, 667) |
| 2023 | Marguerite R. Dow Canadian Heritage Award, Western University (\$600) |
| 2019 | Winner of the #HeForShe University of Waterloo Writing Contest (\$500) |
| 2019 | Subject Proficiency Award in Earth and Space Science |

Professional Work Experience

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| 2023 | Digital Marketing Assistant , See the Worth, Goodwill Industries |
| 2022 – 2023 | Student Library Assistant , Western University |
| 2021 – 2022 | Museum Coordinator , Superior Glove Works, The Canadian Glove Museum |

Academic Community Involvement

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| 2025 | Moderator , Intersections Cross-sections Student Academic Conference, York University and Toronto Metropolitan University |
| 2024 – 2025 | Member , Graduate Advisory Committee, Faculty of Liberal Arts and Professional Studies, York University |
| 2024 | Volunteer , Canada Youth Internet Governance Forum |
| 2023 – 2024 | Co-Chair , Intersections Cross-sections Student Academic Conference, York University and Toronto Metropolitan University |
| 2022 – 2023 | President/Editor-in-Chief , The Coterie: Undergraduate English Society, Western University |

Professional Associations

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| 2025 – Present | Member , Violence Prevention Newfoundland & Labrador |
| 2025 – Present | Committee Member , Sexual Assault Response & Advocacy Team |
| 2025 – Present | Committee Member , Western Wellness Coalition |
| 2025 – Present | Member , Canadian Communication Association |
| 2025 – Present | Member , Canadian Sociological Association |

2024 – Present

Member, Association for Canadian Studies in the United States Emerging Scholars

Professional Development

January 2026

LivingWorks ASIST

May 2024

TCPS 2: Core-2022 Certification

May 2019

DELF-Certified French Level A2