

Destiny Hopkins

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Education

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| 2023 – 2025 | M.A. Master of Arts, Communication and Culture
York University & Toronto Metropolitan University
Thesis: <i>“What is a Newsfluencer?”: Conversations About Identity, Social Media Platforms, and Journalism Boundaries</i>
Supervisor: Dr. Kelly Bergstrom |
| 2019 – 2023 | B.A. Honours Bachelor of Arts, Criminology and English
Western University |

Research Experience

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

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

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

- Assisting Dr. Kelly Berstrom in researching ethics and true crime fandoms, 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

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| June 2026 | UNDER REVIEW: 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 | UNDER REVIEW: 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

- January 2026 “Cyberstalking: National Stalking Awareness Month.” The Plain Truth, 100.1 Bay FM Radio
- December 2025 “Intimate Images.” Pasadena Academy
- 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

2025	National Action Plan to End Gender-Based Violence Grant (\$45, 000)
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

2022 – 2023	Student Library Assistant , Western University
2021 – 2022	Museum Coordinator , Superior Glove Works, The Canadian Glove Museum

Academic Community Involvement

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

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

May 2024	TCPS 2: Core-2022 Certification
2019	DELFI-Certified French Level A2