

Destiny Hopkins

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Education

2023 – 2025	M.A. Master of Arts, Communication and Culture York University & Toronto Metropolitan University Thesis: “ <i>What is a Newsfluencer?</i> ”: <i>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

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	DELF-Certified French Level A2