

**KATHRYN MONTALBANO**

kathryn.a.montalbano@gmail.com || [kathrynmontalbano.com](http://kathrynmontalbano.com)

---

**ACADEMIC  
APPOINTMENTS**

**University of Kentucky**

Assistant Professor, Media Law and Ethics  
School of Journalism and Media  
College of Communication and Information  
Starting in August 2023

**Appalachian State University**

Assistant Professor, Media Law/Journalism  
Department of Communication  
August 2020–May 2023

**Young Harris College**

Assistant Professor, Communication Studies  
August 2018–May 2020

**Neumann University**

Assistant Professor, Communication and Digital Media  
August 2016–May 2018

**EDUCATION**

**Columbia University**

Ph.D. in Communications (2016)  
Dissertation: Under the Eye of Providence: Surveilling  
Religion in the United States  
Committee: Richard R. John (advisor), Todd Gitlin (chair),  
Courtney Bender, David Stark, Elizabeth Blackmar

**Columbia University**

M.Phil. in Communications (2014)

**Columbia University**

M.A. in Communications (2011)

**Haverford College**

B.A. in English, Sociology (minor) (2009)  
Advisors: Debora Sherman; Mark Gould

**PEER-REVIEWED  
PUBLICATIONS**

**Book**

Montalbano, K. (2018). *Government surveillance of religious expression: Mormons, Quakers, and Muslims in the United States*. New York: Routledge.

**Journal Articles & Book Chapters**

Montalbano, K., & Perreault, G. (forthcoming). Resisting Protestant hegemony: Privileging coverage in religion reporting. *Journal of Religion, Media and Digital Culture*.

Montalbano, K. (2023). Reimagining Section 230 and content moderation: Regulating incivility on anonymous digital platforms. *Communication Law and Policy*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10811680.2022.2136442>

Perreault, G., & Montalbano, K. (2022). Covering religion: Field insurgency in U.S. religion reporting. *Journalism*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849211073220>

Montalbano, K. (2021). “Yakety yak: Don't talk back”: An autopsy of anonymity gone awry. *Internet Histories*, 6(1-2), 191-205. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/24701475.2021.2020470>

Montalbano, K. (2021). Preventing yellow jack and yellow journalism: The tensions in Mississippi Valley news coverage of the 1878 yellow fever epidemic. *Journalism History*, 47(4), 372-391. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00947679.2021.1988273>

Montalbano, K. (2019). The FBI and the AFSC: Surveilling United States religious expression in the Cold War era. In R. Heynen and E. van der Meulen (Eds.), *Making surveillance states: Transnational histories* (pp. 238-260). Toronto, Canada: University of Toronto Press.

Montalbano, K. (2019). Islamophobia in reactionary news: Radicalizing Christianity in the United States. *Open Library of Humanities*, 5(1): 61, 1-49. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.16995/olh.473>

Montalbano, K. (2018). Net neutrality, the Fairness Doctrine, and the NRB: The tension between United States religious expression and media regulation. *Media and Communication*, 6(1), 5-12. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.17645/mac.v6i1.1198>

Montalbano, K. (2015). Misunderstanding the Mongols: Intercultural communication in three thirteenth-century Franciscan travel accounts. *Information & Culture: A Journal of History*, 50(4), 588-610. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7560/IC50406>

### **Book Review**

Montalbano, K. (June 2021). [Review of *The Routledge handbook of religion and journalism*, edited by Radde-Antweiler and X. Zeiler]. *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

### **Manuscripts Under Review or In Development**

Montalbano, K. (under review). Covering religion on the “Big Three” networks (1968-1979): “And that’s the way it is.”

Montalbano, K. (in development). *Safe harbors: The history of U.S. speech protections from the post office to the Internet*.

### **AWARDS**

Most Helpful Faculty and Staff award, Appalachian State, 2021-2022.

2nd place Faculty Paper award (RMIG) with Perreault, G., “From Lifestyle Journalism to General News: Field Theory in the Hard News Turn of Religion Reporting,” AEJMC 2021.

### **INVITED TALKS**

University of Kentucky, School of Journalism and Media, “Safe Harbors and Suspect Speech: Ethical Limitations in U.S. Media Law and Policy,” 8 February 2023.

University of Missouri, Missouri School of Journalism, “Sacred Spaces, Suspect Speech, and Safe Harbors: Free Expression in U.S. Journalism and Media Policy,” 1 November 2022.

“Dead and Dying Platforms” panel, Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), Philadelphia, 13-16 October 2021.

Appalachian State University, Department of Communication, “Covering Religion and the First Amendment,” 9 November 2019.

Young Harris College, Department of Communication, “The Rise and Fall of Journalistic Objectivity,” 16 February 2018.

Boston College, Department of Communication, “Government Surveillance of Religious Expression in the United States: Mormons, Quakers, and Muslims,” 4 December 2017.

#### **PEER-REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2023 “Regulating U.S. Abolitionist Networks in the 1830s,” ICA, “Reclaiming Authenticity in Communication,” Communication Law and Policy Division, Toronto, 25-29 May.
- 2022 “Shielding Safe Spaces: Governmental and Public Perspectives on Section 230,” Media Law and Policy Scholars Conference (MLPSC), online, 13-14 January.
- 2021 “‘Yakety Yak, Don't Talk Back’: Moderation on Anonymous Platforms,” AoIR, “Independence,” Philadelphia, 13–16 October.
- “From Lifestyle Journalism to General News: Field Theory in the Hard News Turn of Religion Reporting,” AEJMC, “Turning the Page,” New Orleans, 4–7 August.
- “Section 230 and Digital Disinformation,” ICA, “Engaging the Essential Work of Care: Communication, Connectedness, and Social Justice,” Communication Law and Policy Division, Denver, 27–31 May.
- 2020 “Preventing Yellow Jack and Yellow Journalism: The Tension in Mississippi Valley News Coverage of the 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic,” Symposium on the 19th Century Press,

the Civil War, and Free Expression, online, 12–14 November.

- 2019 “Right-Wing Populism, Religion, and Reactionary News: Radicalizing United States Christianity,” ICA, “Communication Beyond Borders,” Pre-conference, “Global Populism: Its Roots in Media and Religion,” Washington, D.C., 24 May.
- 2018 “Regulating Religion in the United States: Mormons, Quakers, and Muslims,” ICA, “Voices,” Pre-conference, “Global Media and Human Rights,” Prague, CZ, 23–24 May.
- 2017 “Surveilling Pacifists in Cold War America: The Quakers, the FBI, and the First Amendment,” ICA, “Interventions: Communication Research and Practice,” Communication History Division, San Diego, 25–29 May.
- 2015 “Considering Religious Networks and Media: A Methodological Challenge to Communication Studies,” ECREA, “Bridges and Boundaries: Theories, Concepts, and Sources in Communication History,” Venice, IT, 16–18 September.
- 2013 “Misunderstanding the Mongols: Intercultural Communication in Three Thirteenth-Century Franciscan Travel Accounts,” ICA, “Communication Across the Life Span,” Pre-conference, “Communications and the State: Toward a New International History,” San Juan, PR, 21–25 May.
- “Mediating Messages in Unchartered Territory: Conceptualizing Profession in 13th-Century Franciscan Travel Narratives,” Columbia University Religion Department—Graduate Student Conference, “Religion on the Move: Movement, Migration, Missions and New Media across Religious Traditions,” New York, 26 April.
- 2012 “Defacement and Encoding in the Network Society: The Fusion of Evangelicalism and Catholicism in the American Public Sphere,” ISMRC, Eskişehir, TR, 8–12 July.
- “The Environmental Movement and American Religion in the Network Society: Reconfiguring Hierarchies to Exist within Heterarchical Organizational Structures,” AEJMC,

Chicago, 9–12 August.

**PUBLIC  
ENGAGEMENT**

“Has Technology Reached Escape Velocity from Law?” Law and Technology panel, Clubhouse, 28 February 2021.

“Religion in Life,” AppTV, Season 15, Episode 5. Appalachian State University. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtW4Hzgm7Io>

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

2020–present

**Appalachian State University**

Communication Law  
Journalism Matters  
Race & Diversity in Media (course in preparation)

2018–2020

**Young Harris College**

Introduction to Media Communication  
Public Speaking  
Communication Theory  
Critical Approaches in Communication (Research Methods)  
Manufacturing Objectivity: (De)constructing Disinformation  
Protest and Social Activism  
Communication and Surveillance  
Religion and Media  
Senior Capstone

2016-2018

**Neumann University**

Communication Research Methods  
Globalization, New Media, and the Internet  
Introduction to Communication  
Mass Media and Society  
Senior Seminar

2013–2014

**College of Mount Saint Vincent**

Introduction to Media Studies (Adjunct)  
New Media and Society (Adjunct)

2011-2013

**Columbia University**

Ethics of Journalism, (TA, Graduate School of Journalism)  
History of Journalism, (TA, Graduate School of Journalism)  
Organizing Innovation (TA, Department of Sociology)

**RESEARCH/  
PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCE**

Research assistant to Jonathan Zittrain, Professor of Law and Computer Science, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, for research on net neutrality and Internet policy, June–August 2013.

Research assistant to Frederick A.O. Schwarz, Jr., Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, for *Democracy in the Dark: The Seduction of Government Secrecy* (2015), February 2012–February 2013.

Research assistant to Richard R. John, Professor of History and Communications, Columbia University, on late eighteenth-century American communications, antimonopoly, and the history of transatlantic communication, January–April 2012, January–April 2013.

Research assistant to Richard R. John, Professor of History and Communications, Columbia University, for *The American Postal Network, 1792–1914* (2012), July–August 2011.

Paralegal (U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, post-conviction and criminal appeals), The Law Office of Peter Goldberger, August 2009–May 2010.

**SERVICE**

**Department and University Service**

**Appalachian State University**

2020–present  
Chair, Diversity Committee, 2020–present  
Curriculum Committee, 2020–present  
Faculty Advisor, *Rotten Appal*, 2021–present  
Assistant Chair Search Committee, 2020

**Young Harris College**

2018–2020  
Black History Month Committee  
Academic Standards and Policies Committee  
Institutional Review Board (IRB) Committee  
NCAA Faculty Athletics Coach (FAC)

**Neumann University**

2016–2018  
Providence Animal Shelter (Media, PA), Dog Trotter  
Learning Outcomes Assessment Committee (LOAC)

**Professional Associations and Service**

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass  
Communication (AEJMC)

Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)  
International Communication Association (ICA)

Head (2022-2023), Religion and Media Interest Group (RMIG),  
AEJMC

Vice-Head (2021-2022), Religion and Media Interest Group  
(RMIG), AEJMC