

Afrooz Mosallaei (A.B.D.)

I'm a mixed-methods digital media & policy researcher, studying visual communication on social media in the context of climate change & social movements.

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Journalism & Media Studies

New Brunswick, NJ

Rutgers University

2021 – May 2025

- **School of Communication & Information**
- Dissertation: *Navigating climate change news: Exploring platformization of climate-related news on Instagram*
- Primary advisor: Prof. Lauren Feldman
- GPA: 4.00

M.S. in Communication, Culture, & Media

Philadelphia, PA

Drexel University

2021

- GPA: 4.00

B.A. in Photography

Tehran, Iran

University of Tehran

2018

- GPA: 3.76 (First-ranked)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Affiliate

New Haven, CT

Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, Yale University

2024 – Present

- Collaborating with the experimental research team, examining the effectiveness of heat wave news imagery through survey research.

Media Policy Research Fellow

Washington, D.C.

Free Press

June – July 2024

- **Fellowship awarded by the Consortium on Media Policy Studies (COMPASS)**, a program of the University of Pennsylvania and Rutgers University's Media, Inequality & Change Center.
- Conducted comprehensive research focused on local news.
- Collaborated on developing best practices for journalists covering online extremism.
- Published op-ed exploring social media platforms' potential in addressing climate change.

Research Assistant

Philadelphia, PA

Drexel University

2020

- Assisted Prof. Douglas Porpora in gathering Twitter data for a research project analyzing the discussions around the 2020 presidential elections.

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- **Mosallaei, A.** (2024). Protest paradigm revisited: Is depicting protesters' (counter)violence really wrong? *Digital Journalism*, 1-20.

- **Mosallaei, A., & Feldman, L. (in press).** Do you see what I see? Perceptions & effects of image-text congruity in online climate change news. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*.
- **Mosallaei, A., & Porpora, D. (R&R).** Citizen videos vs. legacy media visual reports: How eyewitness imagery becomes a corrective. *International Journal of Communication*.
- **Mosallaei, A., Wang, L., & Ognyanova, K. (under review).** From politics to entertainment: Exploring “News Finds Me” perceptions across news topics. *Communication Research*.

WHITE PAPERS

- **Mosallaei, A. (2024, July 31).** Social media’s untapped potential in the climate-change fight. *Free Press*

HONORS & AWARDS _____

Top Student Paper Award , AEJMC 105th Annual Conference	2022
Student Travel Grant , AEJMC 105th Annual Conference	2022
Kappa Tau Alpha Award Journalism Honor Society	2022
Teaching Assistant Excellence Award , Rutgers University, School of Comm. & Info	2022
Teck-Kah Lim Graduate Student Domestic Travel Award , Drexel University	2021
Dean’s Fellowship , Drexel University	2019 – 2021
Fellowship for Elite Undergraduate Students , Iran’s National Elites Foundation	2013 – 2018

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS _____

- The NCA¹ 109th Annual Convention** National Harbor, MD
 Oral Presentation 2023
- Do you see what I see? Perceptions and effects of image-text congruity in online climate change news articles.
- The CCA² Annual Conference** Toronto, CA
 Oral Co-Presentation 2023
- Multiple erasures: The blind spots of American journalism and the ongoing revolutionary movement in Iran.
- The AEJMC³ 105th Annual Conference** Detroit, MI
 Oral Presentation 2022
- Should I run this photo? A research agenda for examining news photo selection.
- The AEJMC 104th Annual Conference** Virtual
 Poster Presentation 2022
- Citizen videos vs. legacy media visual reports: The coverage of the Iranian protests in November 2019.
- The AEJMC Midwinter Conference** Virtual
 Oral Presentation 2021
- Legacy press and citizen videos: Textual (but not visual) departure from the protest paradigm.

¹ National Communication Association

² Canadian Communication Association

³ Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

LECTURER

Digital Media Research (graduate course)

Rutgers University

Summer 2022, 2023, 2024

- Lectured, prepared course materials, provided feedback, designed assignments, mentored 22 master's students, and received a +4.5/5 teaching effectiveness rating across three courses.

Techniques of Speaking (undergraduate course)

Drexel University

Winter & Spring 2021

- Designed a course to address skills such as giving and receiving feedback, researching speech topics, organizing logical arguments, enhancing rhetoric and word choice, using voice and body language effectively, and applying various genres of public speaking.

Business Communication (undergraduate course)

Drexel University

Summer & Fall 2020

- Designed a course to address skills such as preparing resumes and cover letters, differentiating audiences in business writing, composing basic business communications, collaborating on business reports, utilizing research methods, and writing business paper proposals.

TEACHING ASSISTANT

Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

School of Communication & Information

- **Introduction to Media** (Spring 2023, Fall 2024)
- **Digital Media Research** (Spring 2022, Fall & Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
- **Ethics, Values, & Change in Information Practices** (Fall 2023)
- **Gender, Race, & Class in the Media** (Fall 2022)

Drexel University

Philadelphia, PA

Department of Communication

- **Theory & Models of Communication** (Winter 2020)
- **Principles of Communication** (Winter 2020)
- **Digital Ethnography** (Fall 2019)
- **Language in Society** (Fall 2019)

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Journal Reviewer, *Journalism Studies; International Journal of Communication*

2022 –

Panel Co-Organizer & Chair, The future of news images in a social media world, The *AEJMC* 106th Annual Conference

2023

Conference Reviewer, *International Communication Association*

2024

Invited Panelist, "Woman, Life, Freedom": Reporting #MahsaAmini protests in solidarity, Solidarity Journalism Initiative, Center for Media Engagement, University of Texas at Austin

2023

Panel Co-Organizer & Co-Chair, Iranian uprisings and (non)mainstream journalism: Possibilities and limitations, Dept. of Journalism & Media Studies, Rutgers University

2023

Board Member, Doctoral Students Association, School of Comm. & Info, Rutgers University

2022 – 2023

Conference Reviewer, *The Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication* 2022
International Communication Association

Board Member, Communication, Culture, and Media Graduate Students Association, Drexel University 2020 – 2021

Head of Organization Committee, The Annual Photo Exhibition, School of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran 2017

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE _____

Visual Content Strategist Tehran, Iran
Badkoobeh Advertising Agency Mar. 2018 – Mar. 2019

Video Journalist & Translator Tehran, Iran
mba News Marketing Agency June 2016 – Feb. 2018

PHOTO EXHIBITIONS _____

Tasvir Project, Northlight Gallery Phenoix, AZ
Group exhibition of the selected Iranian image-based art at Arizona State University 2024

Fotografia Europea Edizione Reggio Emilia, Italy
Group exhibition titled *A Window onto Contemporary Art Photography*, Iran section 2018

1st & 2nd Annual Photo Exhibitions of University of Tehran Tehran, Iran
2017 & 2018

REFERENCES _____

Lauren Feldman, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Ph.D. Advisor
lauren.feldman@rutgers.edu

Susan Keith, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Dissertation Committee Member
susank@comminfo.rutgers.edu

Katherine Ognyanova, Ph.D.
Rutgers University
Dissertation Committee Member
katya.ognyanova@rutgers.edu

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