MAX ERDEMANDI, M.S., M.A.
Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Communication | University of Maryland, College Park
maxerd31@umd.edu | www.maxerdemandi.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Communication Science & Social Cognition, University of Maryland (ABD)
　　Dissertation: "Strongly (Dis)Agree: Uncovering the Distorting Effects of Extreme Response Style (ERS) in
　　　　Survey-Based Extremism Research"
　　Committee: Anita Atwell Seate (chair), Jeffrey R. Harring, Brooke Fisher Liu, Kang Namkoong, Xiaoli Nan
- The Charles Richardson Award for the Most Outstanding doctoral Student, 2025
- The Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, 2024-2025
- National Communication Association (NCA) Doctoral Honors Seminar, 2024
- Comprehensive examinations with distinction, 2022
- Phi Delta Gamma Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research Award, 2021

M.S., Quantitative Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics, University of Maryland, 2025
　　Capstone: "Evaluating Model Fit in Latent Measurement Models Under Extreme Response Style (ERS): A
　　　　Monte Carlo Simulation Study"
　　Advisor: Peter Steiner
- Comprehensive examinations, 2024

M.A., Interdisciplinary Liberal Studies, Duke University, 2014

B.A., American & Cultural Studies, Hacettepe University, 2012

CONTINUING EDUCATION

1. *Bayesian Statistical Modeling: First Course and Second Course* (2024, June 3-7). Instructor Dr. Roy Levy, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
2. *Finite Mixture Modeling* (2024, April 24-26). Instructor Dr. Jeffrey R. Harring, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
3. *Introduction to Machine Learning for the Social Sciences* (2023, May 25-26). Instructor Dr. Tracy Sweet, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
4. *Introduction to Meta-Analysis* (2023, March 1-2). Instructor Dr. Tracy Sweet, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
5. *Structural Equation Modeling: From Beginner to Intermediate* (2023, January 5-7). Instructor Dr. Gregory Hancock, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
6. *Introduction to Longitudinal Structural Equation and Latent Growth Modeling* (2023, January 11-13). Instructor Dr. Gregory Hancock, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
7. *Social Network Analysis* (2022, December 8-9). Instructor Dr. Tracy Sweet, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
8. *Analysis of Complex Survey Data* (2022, November 11-12). Instructor Dr. Laura Stapleton, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The University of Maryland, College Park, MD
1. Graduate Instructor, Department of Communication, 2020 – Present

2. Instructor, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism & Responses to Terrorism (START), 2018 – Present
3. Program Coordinator, *US Perspectives on Contemporary Security Issues & US-Australia Cooperation*, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism & Responses to Terrorism (START), 2018 – Present
4. Research Assistant, Interdisciplinary Lab for Computational Social Science (iLCSS), Department of Government, 2022 – 2023
5. Research Assistant, Center for Health and Risk Communication (CHRC), Department of Communication 2022 – 2023
6. Sr. Faculty Specialist, Counterterrorism & Near Peer Competition Research Team, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism & Responses to Terrorism (START), 2017 - 2020

Duke University, Durham, NC
1. Research Manager, Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), 2016 – 2017
2. Post-Graduate Fellow, Sanford School of Public Policy, 2014 – 2015

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

National Institute for Justice (NIJ), US Department of Justice, Washington, DC
1. Subject Matter Expert/Independent Contractor, 2022 – 2023

The State University of New York (SUNY), Albany, NY
1. Program Advisor (Dual Diploma Programs), The Office of Global Affairs, 2015 – 2016

RESEARCH

Working Papers

1. Erdemandi, M., & Atwell Seate, A. (2025). Thrills, Tears, and Deep State Fears: Entertainment Media Enjoyment as Predictor of Conspiracy Belief. Manuscript under review, Communication Research Methods.
2. Erdemandi, M. & Sanford, S. R. (2025). Evaluating Extreme Response Style (ERS) Effects on Model Fit: A Simulation Study on Person- And Item-Centric Approaches in Latent Measurement Models. Manuscript in preparation.
3. Gierzynski, A., Erdemandi, M., Atwell Seate, A., & van Laer, T. (2025). The political effects of fictional narratives: Theory and methods. Manuscript in preparation.
4. Erdemandi, M. (2025). Psycholinguistic predictors of secondary traumatization as a result of interpersonal relationships with conspiracy believers in self-disclosure narratives. Manuscript in preparation.
5. Erdemandi, M. (2023). We're not in Kansas anymore: Trust in public institutions as a predictor of protective and preparatory actions during high-impact weather events. Manuscript in preparation.

Book Chapters

1. Erdemandi, M. (Forthcoming). Fragmented fields: Mapping social identity research on fake news, conspiracy beliefs, and extremism. In J. McAlaney (Ed.), *The Handbook of Fake News*. De Gruyter.

Refereed Publications
1. Erdemandi, M., Savoia, E., & Williams, M. (2024). Assessing the effectiveness of programs and initiatives to prevent/counter violent extremism (P/CVE): Key insights and recommended practices. *The National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Journal*.
   https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/assessing-effectiveness-programs-prevent-and-counter-violent-extremism
2. McDermott, V., May, A., Hernández, L. H., Erdemandi, M., Mararac, N., Bean, H., Howe, W. T., Braddock, K., Munz, S., Yamaguchi, P., & DiCamillo, A. (2022). Stand down: A *Journal of Applied Communication Research*

forum on extremism and White nationalism in the United States military. *Journal of Applied Communication Research, 50(*5*),* 572-591. https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2022.2128620

3. Erdemandi, M. (2013). Marvel's Civil War: An allegory of September 11 in an American Civil War framework. *Traces: UNC Chapel Hill History Journal,* 2, 213-24.

Refereed Conference Presentations

1. Erdemandi, M. (2025, November 20-23). Fragmented Fields, Shared Foundations: Mapping Social Identity Research on Fake News, Conspiracy Beliefs, and Extremism [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association 111th Annual Convention, Denver, CO, United States. [Top Student Paper, Group Communication Division].

2. Erdemandi, M. (2025, November 20-23). Evaluating Extreme Response Style (ERS) Effects on Model Fit: A Simulation Study on Person- And Item-Centric Approaches in Latent Measurement Models [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association 111th Annual Convention, Denver, CO, United States.

3. Gierzynski, A., Erdemandi, M., & van Laer, T. (2024, September 5-8). *The political effects of entertainment media: Theory and methods*. [Paper presentation]. American Political Science Association (APSA) 120th Annual Meeting & Exhibition, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

4. Erdemandi, M., (2023, November 16-19). *The dark side of entertainment: Exploring the ties between entertainment media enjoyment and conspiracy belief*. [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association 109th Annual Convention, National Harbor, MD, United States.

5. Erdemandi, M., & Raymond, K. (2023, November 16-19). *How to predict misinformation? Exploring the latent psycholinguistic space.* [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association 109th Annual Convention, National Harbor, MD, United States.

6. Erdemandi, M., & Leach, J. (2021, November 18-21). *Masks don't work: Ideology associations and the geospatial propagation patterns of COVID-19 disinformation on Twitter* [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, United States. [Top Student Paper, Mass Communication Division].

7. Erdemandi, M., & McDermott, V. (2021, November 18-21). *QAnon casualties: A thematic analysis of secondary trauma effects of online extremist behavior on interpersonal relationships*. [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, United States.

8. Erdemandi, M. (2017, October 20-21). *Expansion of automated event coding for better understanding security analysis* [Paper presentation]. International Studies Association (ISA) South Annual Conference 2017, Orlando, FL, United States.

9. Erdemandi, M. (2017, August 24-25). *A computational model of strategic influence* [Poster presentation]. US Department of Defense Science, Technology, and Innovation Exchange (STIx) Conference, Washington, DC, United States.

10. Erdemandi, M. (2014, March 24). *Is complete democratization in Turkey possible without LGBT Rights* [Paper presentation]. The Inaugural Duke University GRADx, Durham, NC, United States.

11. Erdemandi, M. (2012, May 12). *The rise of geolocation-based dating platforms and the fear of social persecution among the LGBTQ+ community in Turkey* [Paper presentation]. Koc University 2nd Annual Undergraduate Student Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

12. Erdemandi, M. (2011, May 7). *Liberty and propaganda for all: Targeting young Americans in World War II-Era Captain America comics* [Paper presentation]. Koc University the Inaugural Undergraduate Student Conference, Istanbul, Turkey.

Refereed Panel Presentations

1. Truban, O., McDermott, V., Erdemandi, M., Atwell Seate, A., May, A., Capizzo, L., Da'Mes, M. (2024, November 21-24). How to mentor unconventional students? In O. Truban (Chair), *Mentorship in Hybrid Environments: The Keystone to a Positive Graduate School Experience*. National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.

2. May, A., Hernandez, L. H., McDermott, V., Erdemandi, M., Mararac, N., Truban, O. (2022, November 16-20). Decreasing trust in security institutions and its impact on US capabilities to combat emerging security

problems. In S. Wilson (Chair), *High Alert: Military-Civilian Relations in Times of Domestic and International Security Threats*. National Communication Association 108th Annual Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.

3. McDermott, T., Hernandez, L., Erdemandi, M., & Mararc. (2021, November 18-21). How do we mitigate the potential spread and acceptance of extremist ideology and historical racism, sexism, homophobia, and transphobia in the military? In A. May (Chair), *Stand down: Extremism and White Nationalism in the United States Military*. National Communication Association 107th Annual Convention, Seattle, WA, United States. [Top Panel, Communication and Military Division]

Funded Research Products
1. Erdemandi, M. (2020). Movement-level analysis of terrorism: Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb and its affiliates. In Counterterrorism Net-Assesment Data Structure (CT-NEADS) Project. *UMD START*.
2. Erdemandi, M., Lindquist, K., & Koven, B. (2020). Human subject research for security studies: Methodology & practice – A handbook. UMD START.
3. Gabriel, R., Erdemandi, M., & Koven, B. (2019). The bargaining model of war and negotiations with the Afghan Taliban. *UMD START*. https://go.umd.edu/wYg
4. Weine, S., Polutnik Smith, C., Braniff, W Erdemandi, M., & Day, L. (2019). How can a public health framework be applied to preventing violent extremism? *UMD START*. https://go.umd.edu/iUf
5. Weine, S., Polutnik Smith, C., Braniff, W., Erdemandi, M., & Day, L. (2019). What should program designers consider to successfully develop and implement a public health approach to preventing violent extremism? *UMD START*. https://go.umd.edu/iUY
6. Weine, S., Polutnik Smith, C., Braniff, W., Erdemandi, M., & Day, L. (2019). What does a community-based organization need to successfully implement a public health approach to preventing violent extremism? *UMD START*. https://go.umd.edu/iUg

TEACHING

University of Maryland, College Park - Undergraduate
1. States of Emergency (Core), BSST334: Fall 2024 (N=120), Fall 2025 (N=TBD) [Instructor of record]
2. Misinformation, Conspiracy Theories, and the Radicalization of Modern Societies (Elective), BSST338A/COMM398B: Winter 2024 (N=14), Winter 2025 (N=16) [Instructor of record]
3. Oral Communication: Principles and Practices (General Ed.), COMM107: Fall 2020 (N=36), Spring 2021 (N=37), Fall 2021 (N=56), Fall 2022 (N=19) [Instructor of record]
4. Introduction to Communication Inquiry (Core), COMM250: Fall 2023 (N=13), Fall 2024 (N=50) [Teaching Assistant]
5. Media Theory (Core), COMM303: Spring 2022 (N=60), Fall 2023 (N=70), Spring 2024 (N=59) [Teaching Assistant]
6. Communication Research Literacy (Core), COMM304: Fall 2022 (N=124), Spring 2023 (N=119) [Teaching Assistant]
7. Introduction to Terrorism and the Terrorist Threat (Core), BSST327: Fall 2019 (N=37) [Teaching Assistant]
8. The New Theater of Terror: Online Terrorism (Elective), BSST338Y: Spring 2020 (N=23), Spring 2021 (N=24) [Teaching Assistant]

University of Maryland, College Park - Graduate
1. Motivations and Intents of Terrorists and Terrorist Groups (Core), BSST630: Fall 2018 (N=19) [Teaching Assistant]

Course & Curriculum Development
1. States of Emergency: Undergraduate Course (BSST334)
2. Misinformation, Conspiracy Theories, and the Radicalization of Modern Societies: Undergraduate Course (BSST338A/COMM398B)

3. Introduction to Communication Inquiry: Undergraduate Course (COMM250)
4. Essentials of Intercultural Communication: Undergraduate Course (COMM382)

GRANTS & FUNDED RESEARCH

Grants & Funded Research Administered by ORA (External)
1. Project Manager/Researcher, "The Road Less Traveled: Bolstering the Absorptive Capacity of Southern Central American States to Facilitate the Southern Flow of Northern Triangle Immigrants." United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS): $200,000. March 2020 – March 2021 [P.I. Dr. Marcus Boyd].
2. Project Manager/Researcher, "Divergent Dimensions of Radicalization: Migration & Violent Extremism in Sabah." United States Department of State (DOS): $250,000. September 2019 – September 2021 [Co-P.Is. Dr. Barnett Koven, Dr. Amy Pate].
3. Project Manager/Researcher, "Counterterrorism Net Assessment Data Structure / CTNEADS." United States Department of Defense (DOD): $375,000. January 2019 - January 2020. [P.I. Dr. Barnett Koven].
4. Project Manager/Researcher, "Measuring Up: Aligning SOF and Interagency CT Efforts Across the Tactical, Operational and Strategic Levels." United States Department of Defense (DOD): $100,000. July 2019 - July 2020. [P.I. Dr. Barnett Koven].
5. Researcher, "Bargaining on and off the Battlefield: The Bargaining Model of War and Negotiations with the Afghan Taliban." Joint Special Operations University (JSOU): $95,000. February 2019 - August 2019 [P.I. Dr. Barnett Koven].
6. Researcher, "Evaluating the Safe Spaces Community-Led CVE Program." The National Institute for Justice (NIJ), United States Department of Justice (DOJ): $940,000. October 2018 - March 2019 [P.I. Dr. Stevan Weine].
7. Project Manager/Researcher, "Resources & Resilience: A Computational Modeling of Strategic Influence." Minerva Research Initiative, United States Department of Defense (DOD): $3,000.000. June 2015 - June 2018 [P.I. Dr. William A. Rivera].

Grants & Funded Research not administered by ORA (Internal)
1. *Principal Investigator*, "Mapping Entertainment Media Motivations: A Two-Part Study on Measure Development and Application." Department of Communication, University of Maryland: $5,000. November 2023 – June 2024. [Co-P.I. Dr. Anita Atwell Seate].
2. Curriculum Designer, "COMM250 – Introduction to Communication Inquiry Assessment and Course Redesign." Department of Communication, University of Maryland: $6,000. June 2023 – September 2023. [P.I. Dr. Anita Atwell Seate].
3. Curriculum Designer, "COMM382 – Essentials of Intercultural Communication Assessment and Course Redesign." Department of Communication, University of Maryland: $8,000. June 2020 – September 2020. [P.I. Dr. Nick Joyce].

LECTURES, PRESENTATION, & MEDIA

Invited Guest Lectures
1. Erdemandi, M. (2023, April 25). *Dark side of entertainment media: Exploring the ties between entertainment media enjoyment and belief in conspiracy theories*. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT, United States.
2. Erdemandi, M. (2020, February 16). *September 11 as intelligence failure and the birth of modern interagency*. School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, United States.
3. Erdemandi, M. (2018, October 28). *Radicalization indicators & risk factors: Towards a systematic approach to human psychology & behavior, environmental conditions, and sociocultural variables*. College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.

4. Erdemandi, M. (2018, November 5). *Discourse and power: Intercultural communication and its implications for preventing radicalization and violent extremism*. College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.

Invited Research Presentations
1. Erdemandi, M. (2020). *Exploring representations of terrorist national trauma in pop culture*. START, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
2. Erdemandi, M. (2019). *Challenges of the strategic partnership model and the future of international cooperation in the new security ecosystem: The case of United States – Turkey relations*. U.S. Perspectives on Contemporary Security Issues & U.S. – Australia Program, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
3. Erdemandi, M. (2019). F*ailure of the strategic partnership model and the U.S.-Turkey counterterrorism cooperation that never was*. START, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.
4. Erdemandi, M. (2018). *A regional stabilizer or a troublemaker: A role theory approach to Turkish foreign policy*. START, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.

Keynotes
1. Erdemandi, M. (2019, June 1). *A higher (education) purpose: Countering the far-right extremism in mainstream political rhetoric and promoting LGBTQ+ inclusivity through education* [Keynote address]. Somewhere Over the Rainbow (SOTR) Conference, University of Maryland, College Park, MD, United States.

Media Appearances
1. Erdemandi, M. (2022, December 30). Policymakers say addressing extremism among veterans is a 'delicate' challenge [Interview]. The American Homefront Project, WUNC, National Public Radio (NPR). https://americanhomefront.wunc.org/news/2022-12-30/policymakers-say-addressing-extremism-among-veterans-is-a-delicate-challenge

Editorials
1. Erdemandi, M. (2020, August 6). The Republican People's Party (CHP) is complicit in the erosion of democracy in Turkey. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. https://go.umd.edu/Skg
2. Erdemandi, M. (2020, January 27). Turkey's nationalist anxieties and the bleak future of 'the Kurdish problem'. *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*. https://go.umd.edu/5YF
3. Erdemandi, M. (2019, April 3). President Erdogan is a threat to U.S. and NATO security. *Small Wars Journal*. https://go.umd.edu/SbB
4. Erdemandi, M. (2018, July 3). Rational choice and how Erdogan keeps winning. *Small Wars Journal*. https://go.umd.edu/Sb2
5. Erdemandi, M. (2018, February 27) Election anxiety is driving Erdogan's decisions in Syria. *UMD START*. https://go.umd.edu/Sb6

AWARDS & ACCOLADES

1. The Charles Richardson Award for the Most Outstanding PhD Student, Dept. of Communication, University of Maryland, 2025
2. The Doctoral Honors Seminar (DHS), National Communication Association (NCA), 2024
3. The Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2023
4. The Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2023
5. Summer Research Grant, College of Arts & Humanities (ARHU), University of Maryland, 2022, 2023
6. Top Student Paper in Mass Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA), 2021
7. Top Panel in Communication and Military Division, National Communication Association (NCA), 2021
8. Phi Delta Gamma Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research Award, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2021

9. Tuition scholarship (100%), The Graduate School, Duke University, 2011-2014

SERVICE & OUTREACH

Reviewing Activities for Journals
1. New Media & Society, 2024-Present

Reviewing Activities for Conferences
1. Mass Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA), 2020-Present
2. Applied Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA), 2021-Present
3. Group Communication Division, National Communication Association (NCA), 2023-Present

Campus Service
1. Departmental Representative, College of Education Graduate Student Organization (COE-GSO), 2023-2024
2. Graduate Student Representative, Quantitative Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, 2023-2024
3. Peer Mentor, Department of Communication, 2022 – 2023
4. Admission Ambassador, 2021 – 2022