

MEREDITH K. REFFNER COLLINS, PHD

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE



meredithreffnercollins@outlook.com



+1 (330) 518-7860



www.mrcollins223.com



<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4324-8765>

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Associate, *July 2023 – present*

Rutgers Cancer Institute, Section of Pediatric Population Science, Outcomes, and Disparities Research, Division of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology
Mentor: Katie Devine, PhD, MPH

EDUCATION

PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2023, Mass Communication

MA, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2019, Media and Communication

BAJ, Indiana University Bloomington, 2012, Journalism (with Highest Distinction)

GRANTS: ACTIVE

Principal Investigator, *July 2024 – June 2026*

New Jersey Commission on Cancer Research

Leveraging Entertainment Media Narratives to Empower Supportive Conversations Between Young Adult Cancer Survivors and Friends (COCR25PDF018)

\$200,000

Co-Investigator, *September 2024 – August 2025*

National Cancer Institute

Administrative Supplement to Bright IDEAS-YA (R37CA240807)

\$100,000 | PI: Dr. Katie A. Devine

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Note: Following the citation information for each article, I have provided the SCImago rating in brackets. SCImago Journal and Country Rank (SJR) presents an “average prestige per paper” figure by combining both the number of citations issued by the journal as well as the influence of the individuals who cite from the journal. Scores among journals in a discipline are divided into quartile rankings (Q1-Q4), and Q1

denotes a journal in the top 25% of the distribution of all journals for a given subject category. For each article, the quartile ranking given reflects the journal's ranking in the article's publication year.

*Trainee authors are indicated by *; Clinical partners are indicated by #.*

- 13 Ma, H., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Ritchie, C., Galper, E. F., Sheeran, P., Sutfin, E., & Noar, S. M. (2024). How do behavioral framing, linguistic certainty, and target specification impact responses to vaping prevention messages? A national experiment. *Journal of Health Communication*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10810730.2024.2355299> [Q1 Communication]
- 12 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A., Comello, M.L.G., Dillman Carpentier, F.D.R., Kent, E. E., #Benedict, C., & *Yu, C. (2024). Understanding young adult cancer survivors' responses to cancer storylines in entertainment media narratives. Advance online publication. *Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology*. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2023.0175> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, & Child Health; Q2 Oncology]
- 11 **Collins, M. K. R.**, Lazard, A. J., Dillman Carpentier, F., Comello, M. L., #Benedict, C., Kent, E. E., & *Yu, C. (2024). Reel reflections: The role of entertainment media narratives in coping among young adult cancer survivors. *Journal of Psychosocial Oncology*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1080/07347332.2024.2337043> [Q2 Applied Psychology; Q3 Oncology; Q3 Psychiatry & Mental Health]
- 10 **Collins, M. K. R.**, Lazard, A. J., Hedrick McKenzie, A. M., & *Varma, T. (2024). "It's nothing like cancer": Young adults with cancer reflect on memorable entertainment narratives. *Health Communication*, 39(3), 552-562. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2174403> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Health (social science)]
- 9 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2024). Reel resilience: Unveiling the potential role of entertainment media narratives in improving psychological well-being among adolescent and young adult cancer survivors. *Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology*, 12(5), 365- 368. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2023.0114> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, & Child Health; Q2 Oncology]
- 8 Lazard, A., Meernik, C., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Vereen, R., #Benedict, C., Valle, C., & Love, B. (2023). Social media use for cancer support among young adults with cancer. *Journal of Adolescent & Young Adult Oncology*, 12(5), 674 – 684. <https://doi.org/10.1089/jayao.2023.0025> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, & Child Health; Q2 Oncology]
- 7 Hwang, S., Lazard, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Brenner, A.T., Heiling, H.M., Deal, A., #Crockett, S., #Reuland, D., & Lafata, J.E. (2023). Exploring the acceptability of text messages to inform and support shared decision making for colorectal cancer screening. *JMIR Cancer*, 9, e40917. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2196/40917> [Q2 Oncology; Q3 Cancer Research]
- 6 Cornacchione Ross, J., Lazard, A., Hedrick McKenzie, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Sutfin, E. (2023). What cigarillo companies are putting on Instagram: A content analysis of Swisher Sweets' marketing from 2013 – 2020. *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 25(4), 755 – 762. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ntr/ntac255> [Q1 Public Health, Environmental, and Occupational Health]

- 5 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Lazard, A. (2021). How narrative engagement with young adult literature influences perceptions of anorexia nervosa. *Health Communication*, 36(13), 1646 – 1655. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2020.1785375> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Health (social science)]
- 4 #Benedict, C., Lazard, A., #Smith, S.M., Agrawal, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Love, B. (2021). A peer-to-peer support app for young adults affected by cancer: Evaluating user experience based on theories of technology acceptance and social presence. *Journal of Applied Communication Research*, 49(5), 497 - 515. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00909882.2021.1971737> [Q1 Communication; Q1 Linguistics and Language]
- 3 Lazard, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A., *Varma, T., Love, B., Valle, C.G., Brooks, E., & #Benedict, C. (2021). Using social media for peer-to-peer social support among young adults with cancer. *JMIR Cancer*, 7(3), e28234. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2196/28234> [Q3 Oncology; Q3 Cancer Research]
- 2 Lazard, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A., Horrell, L.N., *Varma, T., Love, B., Valle, C.G., & #Benedict, C. (2021). Initiation and changes in use of social media for peer support among young adults with cancer. *Psycho-Oncology*, 30(11), 1859 - 1865. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pon.5758> [Q1 Experimental and Cognitive Psychology; Q1 Oncology; Q1 Psychiatry and Mental Health]
- 1 Kresovich, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Dillman Carpentier, F.R., & Riffe, D. (2021). 808s & chart place: A longitudinal content analysis of mental health discourse in popular rap music. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 175(3), 286 – 292. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2020.5155> [Q1 Pediatrics, Perinatology, and Child Health]

PUBLICATIONS: IN SUBMISSION

- 1 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A., Comello, M.L.G., Dillman Carpentier, F.D.R., Kent, E. E., & #Benedict, C. *Using eudaimonic narratives to encourage social support for young adults with cancer.*

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 3 **Minnie A. & Eli S. Rubinstein Research Award, May 2022**
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- 2 **Margaret Blanchard Dissertation Support Award, May 2022**
Hussman School of Journalism and Media, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill
- 1 **Selected Participant, July 2021**
How Stories Affect our Lives: The Psychology of Narrative Impact (SALON) Summer School
University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Bavaria, Germany

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Trainee authors are indicated by *; Clinical partners are indicated by #.*

- 23 **Collins, M. K. R.**, Senger, A., Ramji, A. V., #Carey, D., #Stephens, S., #Masterson, M., #Long-Traynor, K., #Daniel, L., #Devine, K. A., & #Amaro, C. M. (2025, March). *Needs of siblings of Childhood, Adolescent, and Young Adult (CAYA) cancer survivors and the association with psychosocial functioning* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, United States.
- 22 #Devine, K. A., #Barnett, M., Donovan, K. A., #Thompson, L., Kearney, J., Manne, S. Levonyan-Radloff, K., Diaz, D., Dugad, S., Boukhalfa, N., **Collins, M. K. R.**, Li, S., Ohman-Strickland, P. Sahler, O. J. Z. (2025, March). *Unmet needs of young adults newly diagnosed with cancer* [Paper presentation]. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, United States.
- 21 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2024, May). *Can eudaimonic narratives increase healthy peers' provision of social support for young adults with cancer?* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.
- 20 Horvath, L.A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, #Sirota, J., *Patel, P., Senger, A., #Fooks-Parker, S., #Amylon, M., Hudson, S.V., #Canter, K.S., #Alderfer, M.A., #Devine, K.A., & #Amaro, C.M. (2024, May). *Understanding community members' perceptions of digital health interventions to support adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.
- 19 *Patel, P., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Horvath, L.A., Sirota, J., Senger, A., #Fooks-Parker, S., #Amylon, M. Hudson, S.V., #Canter, K.S., #Alderfer, M.A., #Devine, K.A., & #Amaro, C.M. (2024, May). *Preferences for a digital single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. Rutgers Cancer Institute of New Jersey Annual Retreat on Cancer Research, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.
- 18 Horvath, L.A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Sirota, J., *Patel, P., Senger, A., #Fooks-Parker, S., #Amylon, M., Hudson, S.V., #Canter, K.S., #Alderfer, M.A., #Devine, K.A., & #Amaro, C.M. (2024, May). *Understanding community members' perceptions of single-session interventions to support adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. Robert Wood Johnson Medical School Department of Pediatrics Research Day, New Brunswick, NJ, United States.
- 17 #Amaro, C. M., Horvath, L. A., Sirota, J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, *Silver, S., *Patel, P., Senger, A., #Canter, K. S., #Fooks-Parker, S., #Amylon, M., Hudson, S. V., #Alderfer, M. A., & #Devine, K. A. (2024, March). *Engaging community members in developing a digital single-session intervention for adolescent siblings of children with cancer* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM, United States.
- 16 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & #Benedict, C. (2024, March). *Lights, camera, emotional processing: Coping through narrative entertainment media among young adult cancer survivors* [Live research spotlight]. Society of Behavioral Medicine Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, United States.
- 15 Ma, H., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Ritchie, C., Galper, E. F., Sheeran, P., Sutfin, E., & Noar, S. M. (2023, November). *How do behavioral framing, certainty, and target influence receptivity to vaping prevention messages? A national experiment* [Paper presentation]. National Communication Association Annual Convention, National Harbor, MD, United States.
- 14 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & *Yu, C. (2023, October). *Lights, camera, cancer: Young adult cancer survivors' reactions to entertainment narratives* [Poster presentation]. Joint Rutgers Cancer Institute & Ludwig Branch Princeton University Annual Research Symposium, Princeton, NJ, United States.

- 13 Cornacchione Ross, J., Lazard, A.J., Hedrick, A.M., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Sutfin, E. (2022, March). *Selling propositions & flavors: Persuasive strategies used by Swisher Sweets on Instagram* [Poster presentation]. Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.
- 12 Lafata, J.E., Hwang, S., Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Fleming, P.J., Brenner, A.T., #Crockett, S., #Cykert, S., & #Reuland, D. (2021, October) *Text messaging to support shared decision making in colorectal cancer screening: Acceptability among racially diverse adults* [Paper presentation]. Academy for Communication in Healthcare International Conference on Communication in Healthcare Conference, Virtual.
- 11 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A., Hedrick, A., & *Varma, T. (2021, August) *"It's nothing like cancer": Examining how young adults with cancer perceive and use entertainment media following diagnosis* [Paper presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 10 **Collins, M.K.R.**, Lazard, A., & Lafata, J.E. (2021, May) *Current and potential future uses of text messaging in healthcare among diverse populations* [Paper presentation]. International Communication Association Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 9 Lafata, J.E., Lazard, A.J., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Fleming, P.J., Brenner, A.T., #Crockett, S., #Cykert, S., & #Reuland, D. (2021, March) *The acceptability of text messaging to reach racially diverse adults eligible for colorectal cancer screening* [Paper presentation]. American Society of Preventive Oncology Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 8 Lazard, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A., *Varma, T., Love, B., Valle, C., Brooks, E., & #Benedict, C. (2021, March) *Using social media for support among young adults with cancer* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 7 Lazard, A., **Collins, M.K.R.**, Hedrick, A., Horrell, L., *Varma, T., Love, B., & #Benedict, C. (2021, March) *Initiation and changes in use of social media for peer support among young adults with cancer* [Poster presentation]. American Psychosocial Oncology Society Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 6 Gray, J., & **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, August). *Help or hindrance: Examining disability media exposure, stigmatization, and support* [Poster presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Virtual.
- 5 Lazard, A., & **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, April). *This is my story: Processing of narratives and testimonials about adolescent e-cigarette use* [Paper presentation]. Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Virtual.
- 4 Lazard, A., Cornacchione Ross, J., Hursting, L., **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Sutfin, E. (2020, April). *Leveraging listicles (list articles) to educate young adults about the harms of e-cigarettes* [Poster presentation]. Kentucky Conference on Health Communication, Virtual.
- 3 **Collins, M.K.R.**, & Lazard, A. (2019, August). *How narrative engagement with young adult literature influences perceptions of anorexia nervosa* [Paper presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Conference, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2019, May). *Gendered violence in contemporary young adult literature* [Paper presentation]. International Communication Association Conference, Washington D.C., United States.

- 1 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2019, March). Secret's out: Is medical information ever truly private? [Paper presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium, Columbia, SC, United States.

INVITED LECTURES & NON-REFEREED PRESENTATIONS

- 9 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2024, May). Using entertainment media narratives to improve psychological and social outcomes for young adult cancer survivors. Presentation to Rutgers Cancer Institute Scholar Seminar Series, Rutgers Cancer Institute, New Brunswick, NJ.
- 8 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2023, January). Integrating Research into Practice. Presentation to MEJO 671: Social Marketing, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 7 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2022, October). Narrative Persuasion. Presentation to COMM 3360: Media Psychology, Clemson University Department of Communication, Virtual.
- 6 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2022, August). Integrating Research into Practice. Presentation to MEJO 671: Social Marketing, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 5 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, October). Narrative Persuasion. Presentation to MEJO 445: Processes and Effects of Mass Communication, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 4 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2020, August). Survey Research Roundtable. Presentation to MEJO 861: Seminar in Survey Research Methods, UNC Hussman School of Journalism and Media, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 3 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2019, November). How narrative engagement with young adult literature influences perceptions of anorexia nervosa. Odum Institute for Research in Social Science Thomas M. Carsey Graduate Student Symposium, Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2 **Collins, M.K.R., & Lazard, A.** (2019, May). The way we get by: How narrative engagement with young adult literature influences perceptions of anorexia nervosa. UNC School of Media and Journalism Spring Research Colloquium, Chapel Hill.
- 1 **Collins, M.K.R.** (2018, May). Gendered violence in young adult literature. UNC School of Media and Journalism Spring Research Colloquium, Chapel Hill, NC.

GRANTS: COMPLETED

- Graduate Research Assistant, August 2020 – August 2021**
American Cancer Society
- 3 Engaging Adolescents and Young Adults with Cancer via a Social Support App
133694-PEP-19-154-01-PCSM
\$144,000 | PI: Allison Lazard, PhD
- Graduate Research Assistant, August 2019 – August 2020**
University of North Carolina Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center
- 2 Text Messaging to Enhance the Use of Patient-Target Decision Support Among Diverse Populations
\$199,987 | PI: Jennifer Elston Lafata, PhD
- Graduate Research Assistant, August 2019 – August 2020**
Wake Forest Tobacco Control Center for Excellence
- 1

UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING: UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Media Ethics, Summer 2022

Undergraduate ethics course required for majors and minors
Online only | Enrollment: 17

Advertising & Public Relations Research Methods, Spring 2022

Undergraduate research methods required for Ad/PR majors/minors
In Person | Enrollment: 30

Advertising & Public Relations Research Methods, Fall 2021

Undergraduate research methods required for Ad/PR majors/minors
In Person | Enrollment: 28

HONORS THESIS (UNDERGRADUATE) ADVISING

Reader, Spring 2021

Molly Brice
Hussman School of Journalism and Media
Thesis: Bridging gaps in adolescent understanding of sexual assault and sexual violence through young adult literature

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & LEADERSHIP

President, August 2022 – May 2023 & August 2018 – May 2019

Hussman School of Journalism and Media Graduate Student Association

Committee Member, August 2021 – May 2022

Hussman School of Journalism and Media PhD Visit Planning Committee

Student Liaison, August 2020 – May 2021

Hussman School of Journalism and Media PhD Advisory Committee

Committee Member, August 2017 – May 2019

Hussman School of Journalism and Media MA Visit Planning Committee

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Peer Reviewer, Ad Hoc

Annals of Behavioral Medicine
PLOS ONE
Patient Education and Counseling

Conference Reviewer, Ad Hoc

National Communication Association (Mass Communication Division & Student Section)
International Communication Association (Mobile Communication Interest Group; Children,
Adolescents, and the Media Division)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Participant, March 2024 – May 2024

Learning Mentoring

The McGraw Center for Teaching and Learning, Princeton, NJ, United States

Participant, February 2024 – January 2025

Peer Reviewer Academy

Society of Behavioral Medicine, United States

Participant, September 2018

Cognitive Interviewing Short Course

The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, Chapel Hill, NC, United States

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Community Development Specialist, June 2015 – June 2017

Microsoft

Columbus, Ohio

Account Manager, April 2014 – April 2015

NetJets

Columbus, Ohio

Development Associate, June 2012 – September 2013

Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky, & Indiana

Cincinnati, Ohio
