

# MORGAN APRIL MORLEY

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## EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2022

Advisor: Dr. Jordan Soliz

Dissertation: *Well-Being Consequences of Multi-Aspect Multi-Dimensional Identity Change following Chronic Illness Diagnosis*

M. S., Communication Studies, Texas Christian University, 2017

Advisor: Dr. Paul Schrodt

Thesis: *Person-Centered Messages, Attributions of Responsibility, and the Willingness to Forgive Parental Infidelity*

B. A., Communication Studies, University of Kansas, 2015

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Department of Communication Studies, California State University, Sacramento

- Assistant Professor (2022 – Current)

Department of Communication Studies, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

- Course Director of Business and Professional Communication (2021 – 2022)
- Co-Developer of Communication Center (2021 – 2022)
- Lecturer Full time (2021 – 2022)
- Assistant Course Director of Business and Professional Communication (2019 – 2021)
- Graduate Teaching Assistant (2017 – 2021)

Department of Communication Studies, Texas Christian University

- Graduate Teaching Assistant (2015 – 2017)

## HONORS & AWARDS

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### RESEARCH

*Phyllis Japp Scholar*, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2019

- A departmental award recognizing a student who is making excellent degree progress and showing the greatest promise for future scholarly contribution to the discipline

*Othmer Fellowship*, University of Nebraska Lincoln, 2017

- The top university award from UNL Graduate Studies recognizing an exceptional scholar seeking a terminal degree

*Outstanding Graduate Student Award*, Texas Christian University, 2017

### TEACHING & SERVICE

*Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award Winner 2020-2021*

- A departmental award based on student and faculty nominations of an instructor who greatly impacts student learning

*Department Cooper Award Nominee 2020-2021*

- UNL's Communication Studies departmental nominee for the prestigious Central States Communication Association award recognizing excellence in teaching by a graduate student

*Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Nominee for 2020-2021*

- A university award recognizing graduate teaching assistants who have demonstrated special effectiveness in teaching undergraduates at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2020*

- A university award based on students' nominations of an instructor who has made a profound effect on the students' lives

## RESEARCH

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### RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Illness and Identity: chronic illness, identity change, psychosocial well-being, resilience, posttraumatic growth, the social cure
- Communication and Identity: identity complexity, social identity and communication, communication theory of identity, communication accommodation theory
- Family Difference and Identity: political, religious, ethnic-racial differences in families

### PUBLICATIONS

April Morley, M., Soliz, J., Kassler, K., & Strassburger, E. (2022) Identity tensions in the family: Pathways to (positive) relational and individual-level outcomes. *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17459435.2022.2051595>

April, M. E., Palmer-Wackerly, A. L., & Brock, R. L. (2021). Perceived severity of chronic illness diagnosis and psychological well-being: Exploring the multiplicity and dimensions of perceived identity change. *Identity: An International Journal of Theory and Research*, 21, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15283488.2021.1919115>

Soliz, J., & April, M. (forthcoming). Family communication as...social identity. In K. Denker, J. Manning, & J. Allen (Eds.), *Family Communication As... Metaphors for Family Communication*. Wiley.

April, M., & Schrod, P. (2018). Person-centered messages, attributions of responsibility, and the willingness to forgive parental infidelity. *Communication Studies*, 70, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10510974.2018.1469525>

### MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Soliz, J., Cardwell, M., & April, M. (2022). Memorable messages about mass suffering: Family socialization related to outgroup concern. *Revise and Resubmit at Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*.

### MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

April, M. *Social identity complexity and implications for communication competence and well-being.*

April, M. *Growing with chronic illness: How family identity, communication constraints, and identity complexity relate to posttraumatic growth.*

#### SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

Morley, M. A. Identity change and treatment adherence: A multi-dimensional, multi-layered analysis of identity change and treatment adherence following chronic illness diagnosis. To be presented at 2022 annual meeting of the National Communication Association.

Voorhees, H., Goldsmith, D. J., Upshaw, S., April, M., Bergquist, G., & Martin, P. G. *What is illness identity, why do we study it, and why should you?* Discussed as a panel presenter at the 2021 annual meeting of the Western States Communication Association.

April, M. *Who am I now?: Exploring perceptions of identity transitions after the diagnosis Systematic Lupus Erythematosus.* Presented at the 2021 annual meeting of the National Communication Association.

April, M. *Interpersonal relationship mapping: Exploring and reflecting on our social worlds.* Presented at the 2021 annual meeting of the National Communication Association.

Cardwell, M., Martinez, N., Menard, L., April, M., & Soliz, J. *Memorable messages about mass suffering: Family socialization related to outgroup concern and inclusive worldviews.* Presented at the 2021 annual meeting of the International Communication Association virtually.

April, M., Harter, L. M., Defenbaugh, N. L., Cooke-Jackson, A., & Anderson-Lain, K. *At the crossroads of communication & chronic illness: Giving voice, creating space, and forging inclusive pathways for scholars with invisible physical disabilities.* Discussion panel presenter at the 2020 annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference in Indianapolis, IN. [Panel Organizer]

April, M., Palmer-Wackerly, A. L., Brock, R. L., & Soliz, J. *Perceived severity of chronic illness diagnosis and psychosocial well-being: Exploring the affect and amount of identity change.* Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the National Communication Association Conference (Baltimore), 2019 University of Nebraska-Lincoln Communication Studies Colloquium, and 2019 annual Spring Creative Activity & Research Fair in Lincoln, NE.

Voorhees, H., & April, M. *Communicating about pain to build trust: A two-phase exploratory study.* Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the D.C. Health Communication Conference in Washington, D.C.

Minnear, M., Cardwell, M., April, M., & Soliz, J. *"Let's Talk About Race, Baby": The role of accommodation in interracial-ethnic romantic relationships in the United States.* Presented at 2019 annual meeting of the International Communication Association in Washington, D. C.

April, M., Soliz, J., & Strassburger, E. *Identity tensions in the family: Pathways to (positive) relational and individual-level outcomes.* Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the National Communication Association Convention in Salt Lake City, UT.

April, M., & Schrodt, P. *Person-centered messages, attributions of responsibility, and the willingness to forgive parental infidelity*. Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Central States Communication Association Conference in Milwaukee, WI.

## TEACHING

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### TEACHING INTERESTS

Health communication, social scientific research methods, interpersonal communication, family communication, communication and identity.

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

#### California State University, Sacramento

*Identity, Health, & Well-Being* (Spring 2023)

*Health Communication* (Spring 2023)

*Interpersonal Communication Skills* (Current)

*Introduction to Scientific Research Methods* (Current)

*Survey Methods* (Current)

#### University of Nebraska-Lincoln

*Director of Business and Professional Communication* (2021-2022)

Responsible for course and TA oversight and training for course serving 600 students annually

*Assistant Course Director of Business and Professional Communication* (2019-2021)

*Business and Professional Communication (W.H. Thompson Scholars)*, Instructor (2018)

- W.H. Thompson learning community program designed to give first generation and at-risk students from the state of Nebraska academic support and mentoring

*Business and Professional Communication*, Graduate Teaching Assistant of (2017-2021)

*Social Scientific Research Methods in Communication Studies*, Instructor (2020-2021)

*Health Communication*, Instructor of record (upper-division course) (2019)

*Interpersonal Communication*, Instructor of record (2019-2020)

*Public Speaking*, Instructor (2021-Current)

#### Texas Christian University

*Communicating Effectively in Your Profession*, Graduate Teaching Assistant of (2016-2017)

*Basic Speech Communication*, Graduate Teaching Assistant of (2015-2016)

### UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING & MENTORING

**Supervisor of Undergraduate Research Assistants**

Emily Strassburger, *Identity Tensions in the Family: Pathways to Positive Relational and Individual-Level Outcomes*

Shannon Sagehorn, *Identity Tensions in the Family: Pathways to Positive Relational and Individual-Level Outcomes*

Erin McCready, *Identity Tensions in the Family: Pathways to Positive Relational and Individual-Level Outcomes*

**INVITED TEACHING LECTURES & SEMINARS**

*Listening in Interpersonal Communication*. Presented to Listening course. Texas Christian University, Department of Communication Studies. April 2017.

**SERVICE**

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**PROFESSIONAL***Panel Chair*

Family Communication Division of the National Communication Association (2021; 2019),  
Health Communication Division of the National Communication Association (2021),  
Interpersonal Communication Division of the National Communication Association (2020)

*Paper Reviewer*

*Journals*: Journal of Social & Personal Relationships (2022) Qualitative Research Reports (2021)  
*Associations*: Communication Theory and Research Interest Group of Western States  
Communication Association (2022) Interpersonal Communication Division of the National  
Communication Association (2021; 2020) Health Communication Division of the National  
Communication Association (2021; 2020; 2019) Family Communication Division of the National  
Communication Association (2021; 2020; 2018; 2017), Graduate Student Division of the  
National Communication Association (2016).

**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN**

Member, *Awards Committee*, Department of Communication Studies, 2020-2022

Member, *Undergraduate Committee* Department of Communication Studies, 2019

Member, *Graduate Student Recruitment Committee*, 2017

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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National Communication Association  
Central States Communication Association  
Western States Communication Association  
International Communication Association