

Karen Shackelford, Ph.D.

Doctoral Faculty - Media Psychology at Fielding Graduate University

Hickory, NC, US

Media violence; Fandom and the construction of meaning from media; Media, race and gender.

Biography

Karen Dill-Shackelford earned her PhD in social psychology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Her dissertation on media violence has been cited 1,500 times. She testified twice before Congress about media use and everyday realities. Karen studies the way people seek and construct social meaning from media including fictional stories, especially in the context of fandom. She demonstrates how media can be used to enhance social justice, particularly related to issues involving race and gender. She also studies the benefits of using media to support a meditation practice to enhance psychological well being. Karen is the author of *How Fantasy Becomes Reality*, and the editor of the *Oxford Handbook of Media Psychology*. She is co-author of *Mad Men Unzipped: Fans on Sex, Love, and the Sixties on TV* (University of Iowa Press, 2015); and *Finding Truth in Fiction: The Benefits of Getting Lost in a Story* (Oxford University Press, 2015).

Industry Expertise

Research, Training and Development, Education/Learning

Areas of Expertise

Social Psychology, Media Psychology, Gender, Race, Social Representations in Media, Social Justice, Narrative, Meaning Making, Wellbeing, Methodology, Media Effects, Meditation, Social Media

Affiliations

ICA (Feminist Scholarship and Mass Communications) : Member 2013-present, APA, Division 46 (Media Psychology) : Member 2009-present, Psychologists for Social Responsibility : Member 2011-present, International Society for Research on Aggression : Member 2008-present, Southeastern Psychological Association : Member 1998-present, Association for Psychological Science : Member, Psi Chi Society : Member 1990-present (President - University of Missouri chapter 1991, Vice-President 1990)

Event Appearances

When sexism trumps fandom: Hostile sexism and social dominance predict negative reactions to Doctor Who's first female Doctor (with Greenwood, D.N., Clifton, A., Vinney, C., Sadeghi-Azar, L.)
(2018) Association for Psychological Science Annual Meeting

Popular culture media fans as a population for the study of long-term narrative effects
(2018) International Communication Association Annual Meeting, Narrative Pre-Conference

Inspiration and aspiration: Women in STEM careers reflect on role models, media portrays and influences on occupational goals (with Hopper-Losenicky, K.)
(2017) Society for Research in Child Development Special Topics meeting on media and children

Moms, teenaged girls, and selfies: Daughters? selfie Practices, gratifications, beliefs and personality correlates
(2016) Pop Culture Association/American Culture Association National Conference

Media and social justice: The power of stories
(2016) Latino America Series

The social psychology of fandom: TV and film absorption as psychological fitness exercise
(2015) American Psychological Association -- Division 46, Salon Series Webinar

Media Portrayals of Social Groups
(2015) Institutes of Medicine Board on Children, Youth and Families (Group presentation)

Modality of Social Support and User Preferences and Success
(2015) American Psychological Association annual meeting

Drinking and sex: The addictions of Mad Men through the eyes of the fans
(2015) Popular Culture Association annual meeting

Using social media for sobriety recovery
(2015) American Psychological Association annual meeting

Modality of social support: Sobriety recovery using online and face-to-face support
(2015) American Psychological Association

Meaningful media lessons: How adolescents learn and develop through interactions with media
(2015) Digital Media and Developing Minds Conference

Social psychological perspectives on prosocial media research and application (panel presentation)
(2013) The International Communications Association

Using dramatic narrative to reduce myths about relationship abuse (with L.E. Shackelford, M.C. Green, E. Scharrer & C. Wetterer)
(2012) International Society for Research in Aggression Conference

Education

University of Missouri-Columbia
PhD Social Psychology

University of Missouri-Columbia
MA Social Psychology

University of Missouri-Columbia
BA Psychology

Accomplishments

Outstanding Woman of Catawba Valley Award

(2008) Awarded by the League of Women Voters of Catawba Valley, NC.

Outstanding Community Service Award

(2007) Awarded by Lenoir-Rhyne College.

Expert Testimony, US Congress

(2000) Called to give expert testimony at the Public Health Summit on Entertainment Violence

(2007)) Called to give expert testimony before the House subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection; Hearing entitled, From Imus to Industry: The Business of Stereotypes and Degrading Images. <http://tinyurl.com/imustoindustry>

University Yearbook Dedicattee

(2009) Dedicated by Fielding Graduate University

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