

Adam Dean, PhD

Assistant Professor/Program Director, Communication and Media

Biography

Dr. Adam Dean teaches digital media theory and practice in the Communication and Media Program. In addition to teaching, research and production, Dr. Dean serves community needs in educational media, for which he has received awards. His service mission is based on intercultural civic education through media, bringing together students and community partners to create media that documents and preserves culture.

Teaching and Research Interests

Dr. Dean's research agenda focuses on digital democracy, storytelling/sharing, and mediated identity. His research agenda balances with a creative agenda in environmental documentary production and feature narrative screenwriting.

Publications and Presentations (last five years)

Publications

Dean, A. & Holyfield, S. (2025). "Stories from the mines: historical memories of Westmoreland Coal." Multimedia and Oral history project. For Bell County Historical Society and Boone Docs Film Festival, 2026 (in progress).

Dean, A. (2025). Toll Roads and Gated Communities: how private commerce took over the public Internet. For b2o, Duke University Press, (in press).

Presentations

Dean, A. (2025). "Net Neutrality: the battle for free speech on the Internet." Southern States Communication Association Convention, Norfolk, Virginia.

Dean, A. & Holyfield, S. "Stories from the mines: historical memories of Westmoreland Coal" (2025). Appalachian Studies Association Conference, Cookeville, Tennessee.

Dean, A. (2024). "Collaborative Media Projects Across Disciplines." 49th annual AEJMC Southeast Colloquium. Lexington, Kentucky.

Dean, A. (2023). "Service Learning through Community-centered Media Projects." Appalachian College Association Summit. Knoxville, Tennessee.

Dean, A. (2023). "Care of the Selfie: sharing and shaping identity in social media images." The Twenty-Fourth Annual Convention of the Media Ecology Association, New York.

Dean, A. (2022). "The Smartphone Mandate." (Virtual) Seventh International Conference on Communication & Media Studies, Galway, Ireland.
