

FORD RISLEY
Curriculum Vita

Distinguished Professor
Bellisario College of Communications
Pennsylvania State University
4 Carnegie Building
University Park, PA 16802
jfr4@psu.edu / (814) 865-2181

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Mass Communication, University of Florida, 1996

M.A., Journalism, University of Georgia, 1992

B.A., Journalism, Auburn University, 1980

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Distinguished Professor, Pennsylvania State University (2020-Present)

Professor, Pennsylvania State University (2010-2020)

Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University (2002-2010)

Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University (1995-2002)

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Education, Bellisario College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University (2014-2020)

Head, Department of Journalism, Bellisario College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University (2002-2014)

BOOKS

Risley, Ford & Ashley Walter. *How America Gets the News: A History of U.S. Journalism*. London: Roman & Littlefield, 2024.

Risley, Ford, ed. *Dear Courier: The Civil War Correspondence of Melvin Dwinell*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2018.

Risley, Ford. *Civil War Journalism*. Santa Barbara: Praeger, 2012.

Risley, Ford. *Abolition and the Press: The Moral Struggle Against Slavery*. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2008.

Risley, Ford, ed. *The Civil War: Primary Documents on Events from 1860 to 1865*. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2004.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Risley, Ford. "The President's Editor: John W. Forney of the *Press and Morning Chronicle*." *American Journalism* 26, no. 4 (2009): 63-85.

Risley, Ford. "'Dear Courier': The Civil War Correspondence of Editor Melvin Dwinell." *Journalism History* 31, no. 3 (2005): 162-170.

Risley, Ford. "The Confederate Press Association: Cooperative News Reporting of the War." *Civil War History* 47, no. 3 (2001): 222-239.

Risley, Ford. "Newspapers and Timeliness: The Impact of the Telegraph and the Internet." *American Journalism* 17, no. 4 (2000): 97-103.

Risley, Ford. "The *Savannah Morning News* as a Penny Paper: Independent, but Hardly Neutral." *American Journalism* 16, no. 4 (1999): 19-36.

Risley, Ford. "Nathan S. Morse: Georgia's Controversial Civil War Editor." *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 83, no. 2 (1999): 221-241.

Risley, Ford. "Peter W. Alexander: Confederate Chronicler & Conscience." *American Journalism* 15, no. 1 (1998): 35-50.

Risley, Ford. "Bombastic yet Insightful: Georgia's Civil War Soldier Correspondents." *Journalism History* 24, no. 3 (1998): 104-111.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Risley, Ford and Susan Thompson. "The Penny Press, 1833-1861." In *The Media in America: A History*. Northport, AL: Vision Press, 2017.

Risley, Ford. "Peter W. Alexander." In *Knights of the Quill: Confederate War Correspondents*. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2010.

Risley, Ford. "The Confederate Press Association." In *Words at War: The Civil War and American Journalism*. West Lafayette: Purdue University Press, 2008.

Risley, Ford. "Politics and Partisanship." *Journalism: A History of Principles and Practices*. Jefferson: McFarland, 2002.

Risley, Ford. "The Albany Patriot, 1861-1865: Struggling to Publish, Struggling to Remain Optimistic." In *The Civil War and the Press*. New Brunswick: Transaction Publishers, 2000.

Risley, Ford. "A House Divided." In *Three Centuries of American Media*. Englewood: Morton Publishing, 1999.

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRIES

Risley, Ford. "Civil War Journalism." *Essential Civil War Curriculum*.
<http://essentialcivilwarcurriculum.com/>

Risley, Ford. "Civil War Journalism in Alabama." *Encyclopedia of Alabama*.
www.encyclopediaofalabama.org

Risley, Ford. "Felix G. DeFontaine," "Edward A. Pollard," and "William W. Screws." *American National Biography*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Risley, Ford. "Horace Greeley," "Henry J. Raymond," and "Government Printing and Patronage." *History of the Mass Media in the United States*. Chicago: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998.

BOOK REVIEWS

Risley, Ford. "The Pen Makes a Good Sword: John Forsyth of the Mobile Register." *Civil War History*. September 2009.

Risley, Ford. "Rising from the Wilderness: J.W. Gitt and His Legendary Newspaper." *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, January 2009.

Risley, Ford. "Jane Grey Swisshelm: An Unconventional Life, 1815-1884." *American Journalism*, Fall 2006.

Risley, Ford. "Front-Page Pittsburgh: Two Hundred Years of the Post-Gazette." *Journalism History*, Summer 2005.

Risley, Ford. "The Moving Appeal: Mr. McClanahan, Mrs. Dill, and the Civil War's Greatest Newspaper Run." *Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly*, Spring 2004.

Risley, Ford. "Fanatics & Fire-Eaters: Newspapers and the Coming of the Civil War." *American Journalism*, Fall 2003.

ESSAYS & ARTICLES

Risley, Ford. "President's Address: A Renewed Commitment to Improve Teaching." *American Journalism*. 24, no. 7 (2007): 130-136.

Risley, Ford. "From the President: It's Not Just Academic: Spread the Historical Word." *AJHA Intelligencer*, Summer 2007.

Risley, Ford. "From the President: The Heart and Soul of AJHA." *AJHA Intelligencer*, Winter 2006.

Risley, Ford. "Juggling Security, Freedom." *Centre Daily Times*, May 2, 2003.

Risley, Ford. "A Georgia Journalism Gem Inspires Still." *Editor & Publisher*, July 11, 1998.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PANELS

Risley, Ford. "The Press and Protests: Black Oppression and Resistance," American Journalism Historians Association, October 2020.

Risley, Ford. "The Future of Our History." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Virtual Conference, August 2020.

Risley, Ford. "'Dear Courier: The Civil War Correspondence of Editor Melvin Dwinell.'" Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression, Chattanooga, TN, November 2018.

Risley, Ford. "Beyond Storytelling: How to Turn Oral History into Scholarship and Public Knowledge." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Francisco, CA., August 2015.

Risley, Ford. "Jefferson Davis and the Press." Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression, Chattanooga, TN, November 2014.

Risley, Ford. "Forgotten Era: Journalism in Antebellum U.S." American Journalism Historians Association, New Orleans, LA, September 2013.

Risley, Ford. "Synthesizing the History of Civil War Journalism." Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression, Chattanooga, TN, November 2012.

Risley, Ford. "The Impact of the Civil War on North Carolina's Press." American Journalism Historians Association. Raleigh, N.C., October 2011.

Risley, Ford. "Not the Harvest but the Green Blade: Abolitionist Editors and the Election of 1860." Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression. Chattanooga, TN, November, 2010.

Risley, Ford. "Overlooked Areas of Research on the Civil War Press." American Journalism Historians Association. Tucson, AA, October 2010.

Risley, Ford. "The President's Editor: John W. Forney of the *Press* and *Morning Chronicle*." American Journalism Historians Association, Birmingham, AL, October 2009.

Risley, Ford. "Of Presidents, and Polemics: Perspectives on Political Advertising." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. Chicago, IL, August 2008.

Risley, Ford. "Confederate Newspaper Correspondents." Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression. Chattanooga, TN, November 2008.

Risley, Ford. "Graduate Education in Mass Communication." American Journalism Historians Association. Richmond, VA, 2007.

Risley, Ford. "A Jailed Journalist during the Civil War." Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. San Francisco, CA, August 2006.

Risley, Ford. ““Dear Courier’: The Civil War Experiences of Editor Melvin Dwinell,” American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention. Billings, MT, October 2003.

Risley, Ford. “Oral History in Research.” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. Miami, FL, August 2002.

Risley, Ford. “The Confederate Press Association: A Revolutionary Experience in Southern Journalism?” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. Phoenix, AZ, August 2000.

Risley, Ford. “Wartime News over Southern Wires: The Confederate Press Association.” Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression. Chattanooga, TN, November, 1999.

Risley, Ford. “Savannah’s *Daily Morning News*: The Struggle to Publish a Neutral, Penny Paper in the Antebellum South.” Association for Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium. Lexington, KY, March 1999.

Risley, Ford. “Savannah’s ‘Yankee’ Papers: Preserving the Union in the Deep South.” American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention. Louisville, KY, October 1998.

Risley, Ford. “Newspapers and Timeliness: The Impact of the Telegraph and the Internet.” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. Baltimore, MD, August 1998.

Risley, Ford. “Nathan S. Morse: Controversial Editor or Yankee ‘Tool’?” American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention. Mobile, AL, October 1997.

Risley, Ford. “Bombastic Yet Insightful: The Newspaper Correspondence of Georgia Soldiers During the Civil War.” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. Chicago, IL, August 1997.

Risley, Ford. “Lessons from the Losing Side: The Unique Perspective of the Confederate Press.” American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention. London, Ontario, October 1996.

Risley, Ford. “The *Albany Patriot*: Struggling to Publish, Struggling to Remain Optimistic.” Symposium on the Antebellum Press, the Civil War, and Free Expression. Chattanooga, TN, November 1994.

Risley, Ford. “Peter W. Alexander: Confederate Chronicler & Conscience.” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Annual Convention. Atlanta, GA, August 1994.

INVITED TALKS (Selected list)

“How America Gets the News: A History of U.S. Journalism,” Humanities Texas, October 2024.

“Abolition and the Press: The Moral Struggle Against Slavery,” Middlebury College, October 2022.

- “Abraham Lincoln and the Press,” Presidential Leadership Academy, Pennsylvania State University, October 2018.
- “The Role of the Press in the Civil War,” Echoes of the Civil War, Chester County Historical Society,” September 2013.
- “Blue and Gray in Black and White: Civil War Journalism,” Hinson Lecture, University of Mobile, April 2013.
- “Synthesizing the History of the Civil War Press,” Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression. Chattanooga, TN, November 2012.
- “Newspapers Make War: America’s Civil War Press,” Media and History Conference, St. Peter’s College, April 2011.
- “War of Words: Alabama’s Civil War Press,” Becoming Alabama: Who, What, When, Where and Why, Auburn University, January 2011.
- “Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War Press,” David Wills House. Gettysburg, PA, March 2010.
- “Abolition and the Press: The Moral Struggle Against Slavery.” Mary Junck Research Colloquium. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 2010.
- “Stirring the Conscience of a Nation: The Tactics and Impact of the Abolitionist Press,” Symposium on the Nineteenth Century Press. Chattanooga, TN, November 2009.
- “Soldier Correspondents,” Central Pennsylvania Civil War Roundtable, October 2005, State College, PA.

PROFESSIONAL WORKSHOPS (Selected list)

- “Advanced Reporting,” Penn State Institute for High School Journalists. July 2007, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Feature Writing,” Penn State Institute for High School Journalists. July 2005, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Working with the News Media,” USDA Farm Service Agency Training. April 2004, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Advanced Interviewing,” Penn State Institute for High School Journalists. July 2003, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Using the Internet as a Reporting Tool,” Penn State Institute for Editors. July 2002, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Putting Your Newspaper on the Web,” Penn State Institute for High School Journalists. July 2000, Pennsylvania State University.
- “Harnessing the Internet for Reporting,” Penn State Institute for Editors. May 2000, Pennsylvania State University.

“Mass Media and the Internet,” Pennsylvania Governor’s School for Information Technology.
July 1999, Pennsylvania State University.

GRANTS

Penn State Oral History Program, Provost’s Office, 2010.

Graduate Student Summer Support Research Grant, College of Communications, 2009.

Pennsylvania Newspaper Journalists Oral History Program, Pennsylvania Newspaper Association, 2005.

Research Initiation Grant, College of Communications, 2001.

Research Initiation Grant, College of Communications, 2000.

Research Initiation Grant, College of Communications, 1999.

Newspapers-in-Residence Grant, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, 1999-2000.

Course Development Grant, Schreyer Institute for Innovation in Learning, 1998.

Service Learning Course Development Grant, College of Communications, 1998.

Dean’s Teaching Development Grant, College of Communications, 1997.

Course Development Grant, Schreyer Institute for Innovation in Learning, 1997.

COURSES TAUGHT

Mass Media History
Mass Communication Law
American Journalism: Values, Traditions & Practices
Literature of Journalism
News Writing
Feature Writing
Reporting Methods
On-line Journalism
Mass Communication History (graduate seminar)
Pedagogy in Communications (graduate seminar)

DISSERTATION & THESIS COMMITTEES

Graduate

Ph.D.

Karlin Andersen (chair)
Dunja Antunovic (member)
Alyssa Appleman (member)
Anna Aupperle (member)

Steve Bien-Aime (member)
 Kalen Churcher (co-chair)
 Patrick Farabaugh (member)
 Nathaniel Frederick (co-chair)
 Jason Genovese (member)
 Kirstie Hettinga (member)
 Beth Kaszuba (chair)
 David Kaszuba (chair)
 John-Erik Koslosky (member)
 Cristina Mislan (member)
 Mark Seamon (member)
 Yong Tang (member)
 Ashley Walter (chair)

M.A.

Ahmed Alrawi (member)
 Karlin Andersen (chair)
 Ann Danahy (chair)
 Dan DeJuliis (member)
 Nathaniel Frederick (chair)
 John Harvey (member)
 Sally Heffentreyer (member)
 Heather Hottle (member)
 Mariah Lucas (chair)
 Shawnee McFarland (member)
 Bill Reader (member)
 Mike Taranto (chair)
 Cari Tindall (chair)
 Roger Van Scyoc (member)

Undergraduate Honors

Jade Campos
 Alison Kepner
 Alison Kuznitz
 Maxwell Kruger
 Giana Han
 Ellen McIntyre
 Brent Miller
 Matthew Noah
 Paul Nordeman
 Karen Santiago
 Alison Shapiro
 Gabrielle Shirley
 Natalya Stanko
 Kimberly Tranell
 Christiana Varda

SERVICE

National

Editor, *American Journalism* (2014-2020)

University

Member, Academic Council on Undergraduate Education (2014-2020)

Member, Advisory Committee for Graduate Education (2014-2020)

Member, University Research Council (2014-2020)

Member, Digital Learning Academic Council (2014-2020)

Member, Search Committee, College of Communications Dean (2013-2014)

Member, AD-14 (Dean's Review) Committee (2005-2006)

Member, Graduate Faculty (1996-Present)

College

Chair, College Sabbatical Committee (2021)

Member, Search Committee, Knight Chair in Sports Journalism (2013)

Member, Curriculum Committee, College of Communications (2010-2011)

Member, Graduate Committee, College of Communications (2009-2010)

Member, Search Committee, Foster Professor of Communications (2007)

Member, Search Committee, Knight Chair in Sports Journalism (2006)

Member, Search Committee, College Coordinator of Relations (2001)

Director, Pennsylvania Newspaper Journalists Oral History Program (2005-present)

Member, Advisory Board, CommRadio (2003-present)

Member, Executive Committee, College of Communications (1999-2020)

Member, Search Committee, College Coordinator of Relations (2000)

Professor-in Charge, Department of Journalism, College of Communications (1999-2000)

Co-Advisor, *The Forum* (1997-2000)

Member, Facilities & Technology Committee (1995-1998)

Member, Web Site Committee (1995-1996)

Department

Chair, Search Committee, Journalism Faculty position (2012)

Chair, Search Committee, Journalism Faculty position (2011)

Chair, Search Committee, Journalism Faculty position (2007)

Chair, Search Committee, Journalism Faculty position (2005)

Chair, Search Committee, Journalism Faculty position (2003)

Member, Strategic Planning Committee (2001)

Member, Search Committee, Journalism Faculty position (1996)

Discipline

Chair, Education Committee, American Journalism Historians Association (2011-2014)

Judge, American Journalism Historians Association Book Award (2011-2014)

Editorial Board, *American Journalism* (2008-2014)

Representative, Council of Communications Association (2005-2006)

President, American Journalism Historians Association (2005-2006)
 First Vice-President, American Journalism Historians Association (2004-2005)
 Second Vice-President, American Journalism Historians Association (2003-2004)
 Member, Board of Directors, American Journalism Historians Association (2000-2003)
 Member, Steering Committee, Symposium on the 19th Century Press, the Civil War and Free Expression, (2002-Present)
 Member, Convention Sites Committee, American Journalism Historians Association (2000-present)
 Convention Host, American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention, Pittsburgh, Pa. (2000)
 Chair, Oral History Committee, American Journalism Historians Association (1999-2006)
 Member, Steering Committee, J-History (1998-2005)
 Reviewer, *American Journalism* (1997-present)
 Reviewer, *Journalism History* (1998-2014)

Profession

Accrediting Council of Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

Site Team Chair:

City University of New York
 Murray State University
 University of South Dakota
 University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

Site Team Member:

University of Texas, Austin
 University of Alabama
 New York University
 Arizona State University
 Louisiana State University
 Ohio University
 University of South Dakota
 University of Arizona
 University of South Carolina
 University of South Florida

Tenure and Promotion Reviews

Arizona State University
 Boston University
 Elon University
 Georgia Southern University
 Iowa State University
 Louisiana State University
 Southern Methodist University
 Susquehanna University
 Saint Joseph's University
 University of Arizona

University of Georgia
 University of Hawaii
 University of Indiana
 University of Maryland
 University of Minnesota
 University of Missouri
 University of Nevada, Las Vegas
 University of North Texas
 University of South Carolina
 University of Tennessee
 University of Texas, Arlington
 Virginia Tech University
 Wayne State University
 Wichita State University

Community

Centre County Historical Society, Board of Governors (2003-Present)

Co-editor, Centre County Encyclopedia of History & Culture (2021-Present)

HONORS

Distinguished Professor, Penn State University (2020)

Sidney Kobre Award for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism History, American Journalism Historians Association, 2020.

Distinguished Alumni Scholar Award, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, University of Georgia, 2020.

Big Ten Academic Leadership Program Fellow, 2016-2017

American Journalism Historians Association Book of the Year Award, 2009

Hazel Dicken-Garcia Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Journalism History, Symposium on Nineteenth Century Press, 2009

Penn State College of Communications Alumni Society Excellence in Teaching Award, 2002

Top Faculty Research Paper (History Division), Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Convention. Phoenix, Az., August 2000

Top History Paper, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium. Lexington, Ky., March 1999

Henry W. Grady Award (Best Paper on Southern History), Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Southeast Colloquium. Lexington, Ky., March 1999

Teaching Fellow, AEJMC / Freedom Forum Teaching Workshop, Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind., 1996

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Journalism Historians Association
Pennsylvania Historical Association

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance writer, *Dallas Morning News*, *New York Times*, other publications (1990-1995)
Reporter, *Atlanta Journal and Constitution* (1989-1990)
Editor, *Deerwood / Southpoint Messenger* (1987-1989)
Reporter, *Florida Times-Union* (1983-1987)
Reporter, *Daytona Beach News-Journal* (1981-1983)

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