Andrew Ledbetter

Professor & Chair of Communication Studies at Texas Christian University

Fort Worth, TX, US

Andrew Ledbetter investigates how people use communication technology to maintain close ties with friends, family, and romantic partners.

Biography

Ledbetter was exposed to the beginnings of the online communication revolution at an early age, and this led him to study both computer science and communication at Wheaton College, and then to pursue a master's and doctorate in communication studies at the University of Kansas. Throughout his career, his research has focused on how communication technology intersects with relational and psychological well-being. Specific research topics include maintenance of close relationships during COVID, personal branding by social media influencers, attitudes toward communication technology, technology use and management of parent/child privacy, and the association between Facebook use and the mental health of mothers. Ledbetter also co-authors A First Look at Communication Theory, which is the leading communication theory textbook. He is also an avid Taylor Swift fan, and has commented on the connection between her music and communication theory.

Areas of Expertise

Quantitative Research Methods, Psychological Health, Friendships, Communication Technology, Social Media, Maintaining Relationships, Family Communication, Interpersonal Communication

Affiliations

National Communication Association, Central States Communication Association

Education

The University of Kansas
Ph.D. Communication Studies

The University of Kansas
M.A. Communication Studies

Wheaton College
B.S. Communication; Computer Science

Accomplishments

Outstanding Mentor Award
Master?s Education Division of the National Communication Association

Article of the Year Award
Journal of Family Communication

Early Career Award
Interpersonal Communication Division of the National Communication Association

Outstanding New Teacher Award
Central States Communication Association

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