

Aurora Silavong

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Education

M.S. Communication Studies

2026

University of Tennessee

Thesis title: Reimagining Asian Manhood on Reddit: A Thematic Analysis of Asian American Men's Identity Construction in the Manosphere

Committee: Jenny Crowley (chair), Jessica Frampton, Ryan Beaty

B.A. Communication (Journalism & Electronic Media)

2023

University of Tennessee

Teaching & Mentoring Experience

Instructor

2025 – present

School of Communication Studies, University of Tennessee

- Instructor of record for undergraduate public speaking (23 students each section)
- Collaborated with faculty to develop and pilot an intercultural communication teaching module, focusing on sensitive and effective communication to diverse audiences

Graduate Assistant

2024 – 2026

Public Speaking Center, University of Tennessee

- Assisted undergraduate students with development and improvement of public speaking presentations

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2024 - 2025

School of Communication Studies, University of Tennessee

- Helped to oversee two sections of Introduction to Communication Studies, totaling approximately 400 students
- Evaluated assignments in accordance with established rubrics
- Collaborated with the primary instructor to refine and refresh materials

Graduate Assistant

2024 - 2025

Tennessee Speech & Debate Society, University of Tennessee

- Supported the development of social media content
- Coordinated alumni outreach initiatives
- Provided check-in and logistical support during the 2025 Tennessee Intercollegiate Forensic Association Tournament

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow

2020

Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, University of Tennessee

- Oversaw a cohort of 24 undergraduates in a hybrid introductory psychology course
- Mentored undergraduate students to support academic achievement
- Worked collaboratively with other teaching fellows and the course instructor to address student needs during the COVID-19 pandemic

Research Experience

Research Assistant

2025 – 2026

School of Communication Studies, University of Tennessee

- Assistant to Ryan Beaty, conducting research on organizational culture in volunteer and donor dependent nonprofit organizations

Publications & Manuscripts

Crowley, J., Julius, K., Brooks, G., Scheetz, S., & **Silavong, A.** (2025). Conceptualizing and testing differences between relational and episodic support gaps. [Manuscript submitted to publication].

Conference Presentations & Posters

Crowley, J., Julius, K., Brooks, G., Scheetz, S., & **Silavong, A.** (2025, November 19-22). *Conceptualizing and testing differences between relational and episodic support gaps* [Conference presentation]. NCA 2025 Convention, Denver, CO, United States.

Silavong, A. (2026, November 19-22). *“What radicalized you?”: Understanding the radical self through the lens of communicated narrative sense-making theory* [Conference presentation]. NCA 2026 Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.

Guest Lectures & Presentations

Intercultural Communication 2025

Course: Honors Business and Professional Communication

Communication and Culture 2025

Course: Introduction to Communication Studies

Communication and Culture 2026

Course: Introduction to Communication Studies

Professional Service & Leadership

Executive Assistant 2023 – 2026

Asian Culture Center of Tennessee

- Assisted with event logistics for a high-attendance cultural festival
- Supported community outreach event planning and execution

Professional Memberships

National Communication Association

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

Horace Wells Jr. Award 2022

Horace Wells Jr. Award 2023

Certificate of Recognition 2025

Issuer: City of Knoxville, Mayor Indya Kincannon

Dr. Sally McMillan Scholarship 2026