

Background

Christine S. Davis is Professor of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. She studies cultural, relational, group, and family communication in health contexts: specifically, in children's health, disability, and at end-of-life. She regularly works with community partners on federally and state funded research projects. A qualitative methodologist, Dr. Davis has over 50 academic publications, including 5 books, 20 peer-reviewed journal articles, and 9 book chapters. She regularly teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in End-of-Life Communication, Healthcare Narratives, and Research Methods. Dr. Davis has been Director of the MA Program in Communication Studies since 2010. She is chair of the Communication as Social Construction Division of the National Communication Association and is Associate Editor of the International Communication Association's forthcoming *International Encyclopedia of Communication, Qualitative Research Methods*. She was awarded the Janice Hocker Rushing Early Career Researcher Award in 2008, and was one of 15 finalists for the National Society of Collegiate Scholars' 2008 Inspire Integrity Faculty of the Year Award.

Research

Dr. Davis's research interests include Health Communication, with an emphasis on mental health, disability, aging, end-of-life communication, family communication, interpersonal communication, and group communication. She employs narratives, ethnography and auto-ethnography to explore how people share their stories with the community, noting, "My research combines communication theory with praxis by investigating the application and development of communication theory in health-related contexts. I use my research to make a positive difference to the community, seeking to understand the lived experience of the people I study, to understand how people interpret their day-to-day life experiences, and to understand the social construction and power issues at play in health-related contexts." One specific area of study involves "people with illnesses and conditions that are incurable, who face revisions in their personal identity and narrative and negotiate the liminal spaces between 'well' and 'unwell,' alive and dead. I also study healthcare team communication, looking at how teams use communication to negotiate voice and power. In my scholarship, I conduct research that enhances people's lives and furthers scholarly engagement; thus, my work serves as a vital form of engaged service."

Relevance

Dr. Davis is strongly involved in changing communities for the better. "I make a positive difference through my scholarship by conducting research which helps us understand people in marginalized situations, helps healthcare providers have more effective communication with caregivers and patients, helps families better manage their healthcare situations, and helps people in liminal health spaces understand and be in command of their lives and their bodies."