

Mitchell S. McKinney, Ph.D.

Biography

Dr. Mitchell S. McKinney is Professor of Communication and Journalism at the University of Missouri and currently serves as Faculty Fellow for Academic Affairs in the Office of the Provost at MU. He received B.A. degrees in Speech Communication and Government from Western Kentucky University, his M.A. in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas. From 2014 – 2016, Dr. McKinney served as Chair of the Department of Communication, one of MU's largest academic units.

Dr. McKinney has been recognized by his academic peers and the national media as one of our nation's preeminent scholars of presidential debates, having served as an advisor to the U.S. Commission on Presidential Debates where his work was instrumental in developing the presidential Town Hall debate and other innovations in the structure and practice of televised presidential debates in the U.S. He also has served as an advisor to the national election commissions in other countries, including South Korea and Germany, as these nations developed and implemented their own televised presidential and party leader debates. Additional research interests include political campaigns, media and politics, and presidential communication. McKinney is the author or co-author of 8 books, and numerous journal articles and book chapters. He has received awards from the University of Missouri for his research, teaching, graduate mentoring and service, including the Kemper Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2009, the University of Missouri's Graduate Faculty Mentor Award in 2011, the Outstanding Director of Graduate Studies Award from the MU Graduate School in 2014, and the Faculty-Alumni Award from the Mizzou Alumni Association in 2014.

Dr. McKinney has combined practical political experience with his training as a political communication scholar, having served as a staff member in the U.S. Senate and at the White House. McKinney is a frequent commentator for state and national media, and has provided expert political commentary for such national media as the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, CNN and NPR. From 2006-07 Dr. McKinney served as Associate Director of the National Communication Association in Washington, D.C., and in 2012-13 he served as President of the Central States Communication Association. In 2012-2013 Dr. McKinney was named a Donald W. Reynolds Journalism Institute Research Fellow with the Missouri School of Journalism. Dr. McKinney is the founder and Director of the University of Missouri's Political Communication Institute (pci.missouri.edu).