

Name of the Applicant: Dr. Lukas Pelliccio

The rank of the Applicant: Associate Professor, Department of Communication

Proposal Submission Date: 2/20/2026

Expertise Area: Interpersonal Communication

Prior FD Proposal Outcomes:

2024- I received funding to finish study on ostracism at HBCUs and submit to journal

-I completed the manuscript, submitted to a journal, received revise and resubmit decision, resubmitted but was rejected. The manuscript being revised again for resubmission to a different journal. I also presented at LU faculty research symposium.

2025- I received funding to complete a study on the paradoxes of social ostracism and submit it to an academic journal

-The manuscript was completed in January and was submitted and currently under review in *Qualitative Research Reports in Communication*

Proposal Submission Term: Fall 2026

Project title: Analyzing Italian-American Podcasts and Social Media Accounts Working to Reclaim Ethnicity and Culture

Request:

Per Section 17.8 (C) of the CBA, I am requesting %25 course release time for the Fall of 2026 to start and complete a manuscript by the end of the 2026/2027 academic year for submission to an academic journal for publication and an academic conference for presentation. The manuscript will be a qualitative content analysis of Italian-American podcasts to uncover the ways in which they are reclaiming and redefining Italian-American heritage in the United States and abroad.

1. A concise description of the project

Italian and Sicilian Americans have historically occupied unique spaces in the social hierarchies of the US (Guglielmo & Salvatore, 2003). In 1891, what is sometimes considered the largest mass lynching in US history took place in New Orleans when eleven Italian men were lynched by a mob who wrongfully accused them of killing a local police chief. Several important political figures like Teddy Roosevelt felt that this was “a rather good thing” because they detested Italian immigrants (Falco, 2012). In an attempt to assimilate into the American working middle class, Italian immigrants gave up their “old world” traditions and attempted to lean further into American whiteness by not speaking Italian, not listening to traditional music and naming their children more “American” names.

Over the past several decades, the proliferation of podcasts and social media have brought about a reawakening amongst Italian-Americans to reclaim lost identities and reconnect with the old world. Groups such as *Growing Up Italian*, National Italian American Foundation, and *The Italian-American Podcast*, are making clear and concerted efforts to reconnect audiences with their culture heritage and to unify the ethnic group.

Therefore, I want to conduct a qualitative content analysis of these podcasts and social media accounts to uncover the ways in which they are reclaiming their identity and the importance of their efforts. I am asking for course release time in the Fall of 2026 to start and complete this study, write a finished manuscript, and submit it to an academic journal for publication and a regional or national academic conference for presentation.

2. Measurable goals and objectives for the project

I will conduct a study, start and complete a manuscript, submit for publication to an academic journal and submit for presentation at a regional or national academic conference outside the university. Also, as required by the FRDC guidelines, I will present at the LU research symposium.

3. The timeframe for the project

August 2026- Start writing, create map for project, collect sources for review of literature

September-October-2026- Complete review of literature, begin collecting and analyzing data

November-December 2026- Finalize conclusions, and complete draft of manuscript

January 2027- Revise draft for submission to academic journal

February-March 2027- Submit to academic conference for presentation in 2028

4. How the project will enhance teaching and research at Lincoln University

First, I teach COM4001 Research Methods. The project will help enhance my ability to teach the method of Qualitative Content Analysis in class. I will be able to talk about the process I went through to do my study, teach students the optimal ways to conduct QCAs, and how to effectively develop themes. It will also be useful because I can show students a completed study of my own and the final product of the methods that I am teaching them in class.

Second, it will help support the work I am doing in my COM4050 Social Media Management course. In my proposed study I will be diving deep into podcasting and its influence on ideologies, societies, and audiences. This information can help me better support student's in COM4050 who frequently want to create their own podcasts for their semester projects. It will also help me show them the specific ways that their content can impact the ideologies of their audience.

The project will enhance research at Lincoln University because it will culminate in a manuscript being submitted for publication in academic journals and for presentation at academic conferences. It will also add to the collection of research I've done in my career and demonstrate that the FRDC grants are directly supporting academic publications and research at Lincoln.

5. How the outcome of the project will be measured?

The outcome of the project will be measured by the completion of the manuscript, submission/acceptance to an academic journal, and the submission/acceptance for presentation at a regional or national academic conference such as the Eastern Communication Association conference.

6. How, when, where, and with whom the project's outcome will be shared

The project and publication will be shared with my department, students, FRDC, and the university at large. I will present my findings at the LU faculty research symposium and at a regional or national academic conference such as the Eastern Communication Association. Over time I will likely also write an op-ed for submission to the local newspaper on the same topic.

Falco, E. (2012, July 10). When Italian immigrants were the 'other'. CNN. Retrieved from <http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/10/opinion/falco-italian-immigrants/>

Guglielmo, J. & Salvatore, S. (2003). Are Italians white?: How race is made in America. New York: Routledge.