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College of Social
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Dr. Larry Gross, Editor
International Journal of Communication
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA

Dear Dr. Gross:

Thank you for evaluating the enclosed manuscript, “A Model of Social Eavesdropping in Communication Networks,” for publication in *International Journal of Communication*. I am submitting on behalf of my coauthors, Kristen Alexander, Christina Hagen, and Andrea Hollingshead.

This manuscript theoretically addresses a communication behavior that has not yet received social scientific treatment: social eavesdropping. We define social eavesdropping as the gathering of information from the interactions of two or more people, without their expressed knowledge or permission, by a third-party or bystander who is ostensibly not the target audience. We unpack each element of this definition while distinctly conceptualizing social eavesdropping as a communication network phenomenon. We then develop an individual-level model explicating three main factors that lead to social eavesdropping: accessibility, information value, and social risk. Propositions derived from the model investigate how these factors influence each other and the likelihood of social eavesdropping. This model not only provides an explanation for when and how social eavesdropping occurs, but also leads to future research questions that we believe scholars will find valuable in both offline and online contexts.

This paper presents original research that is not currently under review at other journals. However, different versions and segments of this paper have been presented at conferences including *INGroup* and an internal USC symposium. The current version of the manuscript has 8,787 words. Please contact me if you have any questions about the manuscript. Thank you again for considering our piece for publication in *International Journal of Communication*.

Sincerely,

Leila Bighash

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