

Anjali DasSarma, PhD Candidate
Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania
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RESEARCH FOCUS

Journalism Studies, Media History, Colonialism, Critical Archival Studies, Print Capitalism, Memory Studies

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Communication, University of Pennsylvania, August 2022 – Expected May 2027
Proposed Dissertation Title: Journalism & Expropriation: Interrogating Colonialism, Cultural Power, and Capitalism in Early American Newspapers
Certificate, Center for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Innovation
Certificate, Archival Methodology

M.A. in Communication, University of Pennsylvania, August 2022 – May 2024

M.A. in American Studies, Brown University, August 2021 – May 2022

B.A. in Media and Communication Studies, Minor in Journalism, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, August 2017 – May 2021

Semester Abroad, King's College London, September 2019 – December 2019

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

DasSarma, Anjali. 2026. "The Sinews of Colonial Hypocrisy: Indigenous Unfreedom in Newspaper Advertisements in 1776." *Journalism History* 52 (2): 92–98.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00947679.2026.2655269>.

DasSarma, Anjali, and Valentina Proust. 2025. "'We Want Entire Freedom:' The New Orleans Tribune and the Formation of Counterpublics Through Affective Discourse." *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly* 0 (0): 10776990251332897.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10776990251332897>.

DasSarma, Anjali. 2024. "Truth-Making, Slavery and Advertising in Early Anglo-American Newspapering: Public Occurrences and the Boston News-Letter." *Journal of Alternative & Community Media*, Media, Justice and Equality. Intellect.
https://doi.org/10.1386/jacm_00131_1.

DasSarma, Anjali, and Linford D. Fisher. 2023. "The Persistence of Indigenous Unfreedom in Early American Newspaper Advertisements, 1704–1804." *Slavery & Abolition* 44 (2):

267–91. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2023.2189517>.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Research Fellow with Barbie Zelizer, University of Pennsylvania, January 2025 – May 2025;
January 2023 – May 2023

Research Fellow with Victor Pickard, University of Pennsylvania, August 2024 – December 2024

Research Fellow, Media 2070, January 2023 – August 2024

COMPASS Fellow, Free Press, June 2024 – August 2024

Research Fellow with Sarah Jackson, University of Pennsylvania and Free Press, August 2023 –
December 2023

Research Fellow with Joseph Turow, University of Pennsylvania, August 2022 – December 2023

Research Assistant with Linford Fisher, Brown University, August 2021 – May 2022

HONORS / AWARDS / GRANTS

Secretary, Philosophy Theory and Critique Division, International Communication Association
(2026)

Bursary Grant, British Association of American Studies (2026)

Best Essay (Third Place), *Journalism History* 2025 – 26 Essay Competition (2026)

Travel Grant, American Historical Association Annual Meeting (2025)

Top Extended Abstract, History Division, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass
Communication (2024)

Social Chair, Graduate Council, Annenberg School for Communication, University of
Pennsylvania (2023 – 2025)

Emerging Scholar Fellow, Milton Wolf Seminar (2023)

Events Committee, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania (2022 –
2023)

Humanities Senator, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (2017 – 2021)

INVITED TALKS

Invited Guest Lecture, COMM 5025: Critical Archival Literacy and Methodology, Annenberg
School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania (2026)

Invited Guest Lecture, COMM 2018: Digital Journalism, 21st Century Journalism, Annenberg
School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania (2026)

Invited Guest Lecture, COMM 3390: Critical Perspectives in Journalism, Annenberg School for
Communication, University of Pennsylvania (2025)

Invited Presenter, “Narratives of White Normativity and the Political Economy of Slavery:
Revisiting Publick Occurrences, The Boston News-Letter, and the Origin Story of
America's Early Press,” Rethinking our Communicative Pasts: Reparatory and Radical
Perspectives Conference, Loughborough University (2024)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Chair, Roundtable, “Expecting Permanence, Experiencing Ephemerality,” American Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois (October 2026)

Paper, “The Sinews of Colonial Hypocrisy: Indigenous Unfreedom in Newspaper Advertisements in 1776,” University College London, London, England (July 2026)

Paper, “Newspaper Expropriation: Interrogating Colonialism, Cultural Power, and Capitalism in Anglo-America,” International Association for Media and Communication Research, Galway, Ireland, (June 2026)

Roundtable Panelist, “Against Inevitability: Reflections on History and Futurity in American Studies Pedagogy,” British Association of American Studies, Glasgow, Scotland, April 2026

Paper, “The Post-Mortem Mea Culpa: Trouillot’s Abortive Ritual and Journalism’s ‘Racial Reckoning,’” Race and Media Conference, Leeds, England (April 2026)

Chair, Roundtable, “Politics, Power, and Practice in Print Culture,” American Studies Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico (November 2025)

Paper, “Contesting the Past: Graduate Student Workshop,” Andrea Mitchell Center, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (October 2025)

Paper, “They Come to Eat Us: The Figurative Cannibalistic Other and the Construction of Immigrants in Media Narratives,” International Communication Association, Denver, Colorado (June 2025)

Panelist, “All That Is Solid Melts Into Air: Capitalism and the Media,” International Communication Association, Denver, Colorado (June 2025)

Panel Organizer and Presenter, “Geographies of Indigenous Enslavement in the Americas,” American Historical Association, New York City, New York (January 2025)

Paper, “‘We Want Entire Freedom’: The New Orleans Tribune and The Formation of Counterpublics Through Affective Discourse,” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (August 2024)

Organizer, “When Media Put Social Justice at Risk,” Center for Media at Risk and Annenberg C3 Symposium, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (December 2023)

Paper, “White Normativity, Slavery, and ‘the Charming of that Spirit of Lying:’ Revisiting Publick Occurrences and the Origin Story of America’s Early Press,” International Association for Media and Communication Research, Lyon, France (July 2023)

Paper, “‘We are Deeply and Profoundly Sorry:’ A Case Study in Querying Efficacy of Institutional Apologies for Perpetuated Racism,” International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada (May 2023)

Respondent, [Imagining the Online as the Offline: Metrics, Journalism, History, and Teetering at the Abyss](#), Milton Wolf Seminar, Vienna, Austria (April 2023)

Paper, “Structures of Power and Sites of Resistance: Repositioning and Retelling the History of the Earliest Newspapers in ‘America,’” Lisbon Winter School, Lisbon, Portugal (January 2023)

Poster, “The Persistence of Indigenous Unfreedom in Early American Newspaper Ads, 1704–1804,” American Historical Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (January 2023)
 Paper, “Relinquishing the ‘Newness’ from the News: Historicizing Hegemonic Journalism’s Relationships with Truth, Whiteness, Slavery, and Ethics,” American Studies Graduate Conference, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island (May 2022)

EVENTS & SYMPOSIA

Moderator and Organizer, “Continuum of Crisis: Media, Race and Capital,” Media Inequality and Change Center, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania (November 2026)

Organizer, Tour, “The Time to Right All Wrongs,” Penn Libraries, University of Pennsylvania (April 2026)

Organizer, Book Talk, *Stealing America* with Linford D. Fisher, Media Inequality and Change Center and Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (April 2026)

Organizer, Tour, “Autumn in the Archives,” Penn Libraries, University of Pennsylvania (October 2025)

Moderator and Organizer, “Unsettling Global Media and Communication Studies,” Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication Fellows Biennial Conference, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (April 2025)

Moderator and Organizer, “Presidential Endorsements: A Dying Journalistic Practice?,” Center for Media at Risk, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (March 2025)

Moderator and Organizer, “Academe in the Age of Social Media: Scholarly Inquiry at Risk?,” Center for Media at Risk, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (December 2024)

Organizer, Workshop Series, “Introduction to Archival Methodology,” Annenberg Library, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (March – April 2024)

Organizer, “Left Undone,” Union for Democratic Communication, Media Inequality and Change Center, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (October 2023)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record (developed syllabus), MCOM 230: Media Literacy, Chestnut Hill College (January 2025 – May 2025)

Co-Instructor of Record with Barbie Zelizer, COMM 3390: Critical Perspectives in Journalism, University of Pennsylvania (January 2026 – May 2026)

Teaching Fellow with Barbie Zelizer, COMM 3390: Critical Perspectives in Journalism,

University of Pennsylvania (January 2024 – May 2024)
Teaching Fellow with Nelanthi Hewa, COMM 2320: Gender and Media, University of
Pennsylvania (August 2025 – December 2025)
Course Assistant with Linford Fisher, HIST 1970G: Captive Voices: Atlantic Slavery in the
Digital Age, Brown University (January 2022 – May 2022)

CENTER AFFILIATIONS

Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, University of
Pennsylvania, October 2022 – Present
Doctoral Fellow at the Media Inequality and Change Center, University of Pennsylvania,
November 2022 – Present
Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Media at Risk, University of Pennsylvania, September 2022 –
July 2026

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

DasSarma, Anjali. 2025. "Disability, Solidarity and Possibility." Center for Media at Risk.
<https://www.ascmediarisk.org/media/disability-solidarity-and-possibility/>
DasSarma, Anjali. 2025. "Racial Capitalism, Journalism History, Liberated Futures: A
Conversation with Joseph Torres." Center for Media at Risk and Media, Inequality &
Change Center.
[https://www.ascmediarisk.org/media/racial-capitalism-journalism-history-liberated-future
s-a-conversation-with-joseph-torres/](https://www.ascmediarisk.org/media/racial-capitalism-journalism-history-liberated-future-s-a-conversation-with-joseph-torres/)
DasSarma, Anjali and Gill, Sim. 2024. "Neoliberalism and the University, Part 1." Center for
Advanced Research in Global Communication.
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/neoliberalism-and-the-university-part-1>
DasSarma, Anjali and Gill, Sim. 2024. "Neoliberalism and the University, Part 2." Center for
Advanced Research in Global Communication.
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/neoliberalism-and-the-university-part-2>
DasSarma, Anjali. 2023. "The Eastern Echo & The Umpire: Contextualizing The Penal Press of
Eastern State Penitentiary." Center for Media at Risk.
[https://www.ascmediarisk.org/media/the-eastern-echo-and-the-umpire-contextualizing-the
-penal-press-of-eastern-state-penitentiary/](https://www.ascmediarisk.org/media/the-eastern-echo-and-the-umpire-contextualizing-the-penal-press-of-eastern-state-penitentiary/)
DasSarma, Anjali, Dillard, Christiana, Gill, Sim, et al. "Building a National Memorial to
Journalists Who Died in Pursuit of the Truth. A Report Commissioned by the Fallen
Journalists Foundation." 2023.

MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

International Communication Association
International Association for Media and Communication Research
American Studies Association

British Association of American Studies

SERVICE

Invited Presenter, Career Foundations: PhD Perspectives on Industry Internships and Consulting Programs Panel, University of Pennsylvania (2025)

Journal Peer Reviewer, *Journalism*, *UMBC Review*

PRESS MENTIONS

Shahed, Sarah. 2025. Annenberg School graduate students host panel on future of presidential endorsements in journalism. *The Daily Pennsylvanian*.

<https://www.thedp.com/article/2025/03/penn-journalism-presidential-endorsements-event>

Reissman, Hailey. 2023. A Century of Newspaper Ads Shed Light on Indigenous Slavery in Colonial America. *Penn Today*.

<https://penntoday.upenn.edu/news/annenberg-communication-newspaper-ads-shed-light-indigenous-slavery-colonial-america>

PROFESSIONAL/NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Editor-in-Chief, *The Retriever Weekly*, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (May 2020 – May 2021)

Noted Adviser, *The Wall Street Journal* (June 2020 – May 2021)

Maryland-Delaware-DC Reese Cleghorn Editorial Intern, *The Baltimore Sun* (June 2020 – August 2020)

Opinions Editor, *The Retriever Weekly*, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, (February 2019 – May 2020)

Communications Intern, Newseum (September 2018 – January 2019)

Reporter, *UMBC Alumni Magazine*, University of Maryland, Baltimore County (May 2018 – December 2018)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Representative, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, College Media Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota (2020)

Founder, *The Retriever Weekly* Advisory Board (2020)

REFERENCES

Available upon request.