

# AMBER HARDIMAN

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## EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Ph.D. in Film, Television, and Media, degree expected June 2026

Dissertation: ““Something of a Genre”: Premium Documentary Television and the Legitimation of Feminist Advocacy in the Digital Age”

Committee: Yeidy Rivero and Sarah Murray (co-chairs), Swapnil Rai, Susan Douglas, and Lisa M. Cuklanz

McGill University, Montreal, QC, Canada

Master of Arts, English (Cultural Studies), 2017

Thesis: “Tragedy’s Illumination of Capitalism and Masculinity on Showtime’s *Dexter*”

Supervisor: Derek Nystrom

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON, Canada

Undergraduate Bachelor of Arts, 2013

Combined Honors Majors of English and Communication Studies with a Communications Research Specialization, 1<sup>st</sup> Class Deans Honors Student

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Hardiman, Amber. “Defining Premium Advocacy Documentary TV: Analyzing the Coexistence of Popular Feminism and Care-based Feminist Advocacy in Hulu’s *Untouchable: The Rise and Fall of Harvey Weinstein* (2019). *Feminist Media Studies*. 22 August 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14680777.2025.2545980>

Hardiman, Amber. “Witnessing, Television, and the Television Documentary Mode: Showtime’s *We Need to Talk About Cosby* (2022) & The Undoing of Categorical Guilt with Black Feminist Theory.” *New Review of Film & Television Studies*. Runner-up for SCMS’s Television Scholarly Interest Group’s Graduate Student Essay Contest, 2023. Revise & resubmit received 27 May 2023, currently in revision.

### Book Chapters

Hardiman, Amber. “Feminist Documentary ‘Voice’ in the Post-Truth, Digital Streaming Era: Comparing Lifetime’s *Surviving Jeffrey Epstein* (2020) with Netflix’s *Jeffrey Epstein: Filthy*

Rich (2020).” *Televising True Crime: The True Crime Genre in the Digital Age*. Eds. Froula, Anna, Tanya Horeck, Melissa Lenos, & Erin Meyers. Routledge, Spring 2026. Forthcoming.

Hardiman, Amber & Sabrina Moro. “The Industrial Production of Fame and Prestige in Gender-Based Violence Defamation Trials.” *Power of Prestige: The Power of Fame and the Prestige of an Identity*. Eds. Celia Lam and Jackie Raphael-Luu. Edinburgh University Press. Manuscript in revision, 22 July 2025. Forthcoming.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND CURATIVE PROJECTS

Hardiman, Amber & Brandy Monk-Payton. “Understanding Cosby Through Collective Conversation” & “The Racial Stakes of Talking Cosby.” *Docalogue*, November 2022.  
<https://docalogue.com/we-need-to-talk-about-cosby/>

Open Access Week 2021 - It Matters How We Open Knowledge: Building Structural Equity  
The University of Michigan Press’s Podcast, Open Access: In Conversation. Episode 1: Students. <https://www.publishing.umich.edu/open-access-week-2021/>

Consent Pedagogy and Practice: Exploring Consent Discourses alongside other Gendered Social Concerns in Porto, Portugal, 2018. Consent Culture: Bad Acts and Teachable Moments. *In Media Res, a Media Commons project* - January 18, 2021 – January 23, 2021.  
<http://mediacommons.org/imr/content/consent-pedagogy-and-practice-exploring-consent-discourses-alongside-other-gendered-social-0>

Community Project: Impact Report prepared for AIESEC International, July 2018.  
Created in partnership with the EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality) and the United Nation’s Global Goals Program: Goal #5, Gender Equality.  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/14WbDBhEAFEuFKID8mg3xBhM9J8N2SX8f?usp=sharing>

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Fall 2023 - Spring 2024. Worked under Professor Swapnil Rai to assist with the creation of a podcast series about the global media industries. Episodes included discussions with industry professionals and authors of recently published books about media infrastructures and industrial formations in various international, regional, and local contexts. Assisted with audio production, post-production, editing, sound mixing, and final output using the Adobe Creative Cloud. Also helped manage the corresponding WordPress site:  
<https://courses.lsa.umich.edu/globalmedia/>

**Research Assistant**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Spring 2020 - Fall 2021. Assisted Professors Yeidy Rivero, Caryl Flinn, and Johannes von

Moltke with the implementation of FTVM 150, the department's introductory course in Film, Television, and Media. Created and organized course content using a variety of software to generate, convert, and reformat clips, videos, and instructional materials, while working closely with IT professionals and consultants.

**Research Assistant**, Department of English, McGill University. Fall 2015 - Spring 2016. Assisted Professor Derek Nystrom with the development of a book project about 1930's Hollywood and the cinematic pre-history of precarity during America's Great Depression period. Compiled and organized filmographies, researched and wrote annotated bibliographies, and managed archival materials in film and print.

**Research Assistant**, Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University. Fall 2015 - Winter 2015. Worked under Professor Alanna Thain as an assistant in the Moving Image Research Laboratory organizing weekly film screenings.

**Research Assistant**, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University. Fall 2012 - Spring 2013. Worked under Professor Jeremy Hunsinger to develop research for the ERIH (European Reference Index for the Humanities) with a focus on linguistics in publication, bibliometrics, and citation analysis.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Instructor of Record**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Spring 2025. Designed and taught FTVM366: Suburban Dads and Mad Men: Televising Masculinities from the 1950s to the Present. As a meet-together class with the Women's and Gender Studies department, the course was also cross listed as WGS345: Special Topics in Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the U.S.

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Fall 2024. Assists Yeidy Rivero with the instruction of FTVM355: Television History, a historical survey of U.S. Television from the late 1940s to the mid-2010s. Leads weekly seminars, grades assignments and exams, and facilitates critical engagement with television as a commercial medium shaped by social & political forces.

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Fall 2022. Assisted Melissa Phruksachart with the instruction of FTVM355: Television History, a survey of U.S. television history and its movement through critical moments in the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, from the golden age of radio to the rise of the major networks, cable TV, and online streaming.

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Winter 2022. Assisted Sheila C. Murphy with the instruction of FTVM202/DIGITAL220: Introduction to Digital Media Studies, a course that introduces

students to theories and methodologies of digital media studies from scholars in film and media studies, cultural studies, sociology, and communication studies.

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Fall 2021. Assisted Markus Nornes with FTVM/GER333: Fascist Cinemas, a course that aims to deepen students' knowledge of history and culture in a global context, with a focus on the fascist-era cinemas of Germany, Italy, and Japan. The course satisfies U-M's race and ethnicity requirement with its emphasis on issues of race, racism, ethnicity, and anti-Semitism in historical contexts. It also fulfills the upper-level writing requirement with its emphasis on writing composition and the revision process.

**Graduate Student Instructor**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Fall 2020 & Winter 2021. Assisted Caryl Flinn & Johannes von Moltke with the instruction of FTVM150: Introduction to Film, Television, and Media, a survey course that introduces students to different ways of engaging critically with film, television, and digital culture in both written and audiovisual assignment formats.

**Course Assistant & Grader**, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Winter 2020. Served as the primary grader for FTVM366: American Culture and the Sitcom Genre. Primary duties involved grading student assignments, essays, and exams, and providing personalized feedback on student writing.

**Lecturer**, Lambton College, in partnership with Queen's College of Business, Technology, and Public Safety, an affiliate of the National Association of Career Colleges and the Career Colleges of Ontario (CCO). Winter 2018. Taught ENG-3123, Written Business Communication, a course focused on developing the essential professional communication skills required to succeed in workplace settings. Designed syllabi, delivered class lectures, graded student assignments, and administered exams.

**Course Assistant & Grader**, Department of English, McGill University, Fall 2016. Assisted Josie Torres Barth with grading and teaching duties for ENGL277: Introduction to Film. Included the timely grading of essays, quizzes, assignments, scene analyses, and exams, as well as holding regular office hours with students to discuss grading criteria.

**Program Coordinator**, McGill University's School of Continuing Studies, Spring 2015. Facilitated McGill University's Study Abroad Summer Program in Business Communication & Career and Professional Development. Assisted international students in obtaining certificates of proficiency in English for Professional Communication.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Hardiman, Amber. (2025). "Streaming Television, True Crime, and Conspiracy Theories: Analyzing the Ghislaine Maxwell Trial Franchise." Console-ing Passions: International

Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media, and Feminism. Georgia State University. Atlanta, GA. Remote.

Hardiman, Amber & Sabrina Moro. (2024). "Depp, Spacey, and Masterson: The Industrial Production of Fame and Prestige in Gender-Based Violence Celebrity Trials." Power of Prestige (PoP) International Conference Series: Media, Fame, and the Environment. Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom.

Hardiman, Amber & Sabrina Moro. (2024). "Conceptualizing the "Celebrity Trial": Mediations of Gender-Based Violence as Transmedia Spectacle." 5<sup>th</sup> International Celebrity Studies Conference: Celebrity Crises and Conflicts. University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Hardiman, Amber. (2024). "The Problem of Evidence and the Post-#MeToo Television Documentary Mode: An Analysis of Hulu's *Untouchable: The Rise and Fall of Harvey Weinstein* (2019) and HBO's *Catch and Kill* (2021)." Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media, and Feminism. Indiana University Bloomington. Bloomington, IN.

Hardiman, Amber. (2024). "Feminist Documentary "Voice" in the Post-Truth, Digital Streaming Era: Comparing Lifetime and Netflix Crime Docu-series." The Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Boston, MA.

Hardiman, Amber. (2023). "Witnessing, Testimony, and the Television Documentary Mode: Showtime's *We Need to Talk About Cosby* & The Undoing of Categorical Guilt with Black Feminist Theory." Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media, and Feminism, University of Calgary, AB.

Hardiman, Amber. (2023). "OMG is Johnny Depp White People's O.J.?! " From Cameras in Courtrooms to Bots & Tik Tok: Tracing Changes in Televised Trial Coverage and Defamation Law." The Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference, Denver, CO.

Hardiman, Amber. (2022). "The Convergence of Television Documentary and Advocacy Journalism in the Post-Truth, Digital Streaming Era: Mapping New Spaces for Feminist Activism and Policy Discourses." 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Communication & Media Studies. Special Focus: Democratic Disorder: Disinformation, the Media, and Crisis in a Time of Change. National University of Ireland, Galway, Galway, Ireland.

Hardiman, Amber. (2022). "The Televised Trial Documentary Pre & Post-#MeToo: Lifetime's *Surviving R. Kelly* (2019), Cinema Verité, and Advocacy Journalism." The Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Remote.

Hardiman, Amber. (2016). ““Freedom” as Compliance in Mervyn LeRoy’s *I am Fugitive from a Chain Gang*.” Under Surveillance: In the Space Between, 1914-1945, 18th Annual Conference of the Space Between Society. McGill University, Montreal, QC.

Hardiman, Amber. (2016). “Adapting “Tragedy” to a 21<sup>st</sup> Century American, Televised Serial Format.” (Un)Restrained Intentions: An Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference on Translation & Adaptation. Department of English, McGill University, Montreal, QC.

Hardiman, Amber. (2015). “The Affective Politics of Becoming in Karen Finley’s *The Constant State of Desire*.” The Affect Conference: Memory, Aesthetics, and Ethics. The University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB.

## ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

**Program Facilitator**, University of Michigan Student Life, Sexual Assault Prevention and Awareness Center. Lead Workshops for the Center’s GROWE Program (Graduate Research, Outreach, Workshops, and Evaluations). 2023-2024.

**Treasurer**, Graduate Student Association, Department of Film Television and Media, University of Michigan. 2023-2024.

**Graduate Student Representative**, The Society for Cinema and Media Studies Television Studies Scholarly Interest Group. Represented the TV SIG at the SCMS graduate student reception, maintained the caucus’ social media presence, organized and coordinated special events as applicable. 2021-2023.

**Volunteer**, The Women’s Center of Southeast Michigan. Helped connect women and women-identified individuals with supportive services related to sustaining economic autonomy and emotional health and well-being. 2022.

**Gender Equality Project Leader**, AIESEC International. Worked as an Intern on behalf of AIESEC Portugal’s Global Volunteer program to support the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal #5: Gender Equality. Moderated debates within classrooms, conducted research for reports & presentations, and facilitated workshops, call-to-action campaigns, and community events. Completed in collaboration with the EIGE (European Institute for Gender Equality). 2018.

**Tutor & Proof-reader**, McGill University’s Tutorial Services. 2016-2017.

**Alumni Representative**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s Recruitment Team. 2017.

**Graduate Curriculum Committee Representative**, McGill University’s English Graduate Student Association. 2015-2016.

**President**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s English Student Association. 2012-2013.

**Note Taker**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s Accessible Learning Center. 2011-2013.

**Student Rep**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s English Curriculum Committee, 2011-2012.

**Marketing Executive**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s English Student Association. 2011-2012.

**Volunteer**, Wilfrid Laurier University’s Prospective Student Open House. 2011-2012.

## CERTIFICATES, HONORS & AWARDS

**U-M Graduate Teacher Certificate**, The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), 2025

**Community of Scholars Fellowship**, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan, \$500 USD, 2024

**SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada**, \$60,000 CAD, 2021-2024

**Rackham Conference Travel Grant**, \$1,150 USD, 2024

**FTVM Trueblood Graduate Student Travel Grant**, \$500 USD, 2024

**Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship**, 2024

**University of Calgary Travel Grant**, \$562 CAD, 2023

**Society for Cinema and Media Studies Graduate Student Essay Award Runner-up**, Television Scholarly Interest Group, 2023

**Rackham Conference Travel Grant**, \$1,150 USD, 2022

**FTVM Trueblood Graduate Student Travel Grant**, \$300 USD, 2022

**Dean's Graduate Award**, McGill University, \$2,000 CAD, 2015-2016

**Arts Graduate Student Travel Grant**, McGill University, \$1,500 CAD, 2015

**Graduate Fellowship Entrance Award**, McGill University, \$2,000 CAD, 2014

**1<sup>st</sup> Class Dean's Honors List**, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2010-2013

**Queen Elizabeth Scholarship**, Wilfrid Laurier University, \$14,000 CAD, 2009-2013

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Legal Advocacy and Policy Intern**, The Michigan Collaborative to End Mass Incarceration (MI-CEMI) - August-December 2025

In this role, I will assist with collecting, producing, and disseminating stories of crime victims, survivors, and families that support second-look legislation. The aim of the internship is to conduct interviews with a variety of legal stakeholders and crime survivor organizations to ultimately produce an array of media storytelling that facilitates judicial review of the (in)effectiveness of long-term prison sentencing.

**Marketing & Sales Assistant**, University of Michigan Press, May-August 2021

Assisted Sales, Marketing, & Outreach team members in all areas of publishing, promotion, publicity, and communication. Involved the production of the University of Michigan Press's Podcast Series, Open Access: In Conversation. <https://mpubpodcast.podbean.com/>

**Copywriter**, Hold Please Communications, Windsor, ON 2019

Wrote advertising scripts for a variety of audio applications, including "on hold" and "in-store" messages, frontline attendant / IVR systems, & radio commercials. Also included conducting extensive industry research while tailoring promotional content to the needs of clients and vendors ranging from the healthcare and hospitality to the automotive industries.

**Editor, Scribendi Inc. 2018-2019**

Provided Freelance Editing & Proofreading services as an Independent Contractor for Scribendi Inc., including (but not limited to): technical, scientific, and medical documents, academic articles, job application materials, and ESL submissions from non-native English speakers.

**Publishing & Marketing Coordinator, CEATI International, 2017**

Designed, Edited, and Published Brochures & Event Guides for Technical Programs & Engineering-focused Industry Conferences using Adobe InDesign & Illustrator. Scheduled & Distributed weekly Electronic Newsletters & Marketing Campaigns. Used HTML coding & templates to update CEATI's WordPress & Website.

**Vendor Management Specialist, Rogers Communications, 2013-2014**

Provided national oversight of contractor's legal compliance to health and safety policy. This involved the implementation of a new automated system, ComplyWorks, across Rogers' Wireless Access Network Services and Optimization departments. Core Competencies included the use of SharePoint Software; Database Management via MS Excel: WhatIF Analysis, Risk Management, & Conditional Formatting.

**Academic Floater, Wilfrid Laurier University, 2012**

Assisted various academic departments on an as-needed basis. Primary duties involved financial administration, processing account payments, coordinating bookings and events on campus, updating social media, and aiding incoming students with registration.

**Student Co-op: Manufacturing, Blackberry Inc. 2010-2011**

Supported Project Managers and Technical Developers while working in manufacturing, testing, and assembly line production.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Society for Cinema and Media Studies  
International Communication Association  
Communication & Media Studies Research Network  
McGill University Alumni Association  
Wilfrid Laurier University Alumni Association

**REFERENCES**

Yeidy Rivero, [yrivero@umich.edu](mailto:yrivero@umich.edu)  
Sarah Murray, [smurr@umich.edu](mailto:smurr@umich.edu)  
Swapnil Rai, [swapnilr@umich.edu](mailto:swapnilr@umich.edu)