

# Amber Hardiman, Ph.D.

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## EDUCATION

**University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Ph.D. in Film, Television, and Media, August 2026

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

*Committee*: Yeidy Rivero & Sarah Murray (co-chairs), Swapnil Rai, Susan Douglas, & Lisa Cuklanz

**McGill University**, Montreal, QC, Canada

Master of Arts, English (Cultural Studies), February 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, May 2013

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

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

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. “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 in the Digital Age: Critical Feminist Perspectives*. Eds. Froula, Anna, Tanya Horeck, Melissa Lenos, & Erin Meyers. Routledge. July 2026.

<https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003475781-3>

### Forthcoming Publications

Hardiman, Amber. “#Post-MeToo Documentary Advocacy or Iterative True Crime Conspiracy? Exploring Media Franchising Logics through Peacock TV’s *Epstein’s Shadow: Ghislaine Maxwell* (2021).” *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*. Revise and resubmit. September 2026.

Hardiman, Amber. “‘Elbows Up’: Ice Hockey, Populism, and the Digital Manosphere in the 2018 Hockey Canada Sexual Assault Scandal.” “Distinctly Canadian Voices,” Special issue of *The Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies*. Under peer review, August 2026.

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. Routledge. Manuscript in revision, 2026.

Hardiman, Amber. ““OMG is Johnny Depp White People’s O.J.?” From Cameras in Courtrooms to Bots & TikTok: Tracing Changes in Televised Trial Coverage and Defamation Law.” *What did #MeToo Accomplish? International Perspectives*. Dinfin Mulupi & Linda Steiner, eds. Routledge. Manuscript in revision, 2026.

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*. Revise and resubmit, manuscript in revision. Runner-up, SCMS’s Television Scholarly Interest Group’s Graduate Student Essay Contest.

## 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.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)** 2026-Present  
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- Mentors undergraduate students conducting research for my project, “Sports, Populism, and the Digital Manosphere,” which examines how commercial sports cultures in America are mythologized in ways that ideologically resonate with populist and masculinist discourses.
- Facilitates students’ development of research and project management skills by overseeing their creation of detailed literature reviews, annotated bibliographies, and case study analyses.

**Research Assistant** 2020-2024  
Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- Assisted Professor Swapnil Rai with the creation of a podcast series about the global media industries. <https://courses.lsa.umich.edu/globalmedia/>
- Assisted Professors Yeidy Rivero, Caryl Flinn, and Johannes von Moltke with the implementation of FTVM 150, the department’s introductory course.

**Research Assistant** 2015-2016  
Department of English, McGill University, Montreal, QC

- Assisted Professor Derek Nystrom with the development of a book project about 1930s Hollywood and the cinematic pre-history of precarity during the Great Depression period.
- Assisted Professor Alanna Thain in the Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies and the Moving Image Research Laboratory facilitating weekly film screenings.

**Research Assistant** 2012-2013  
Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, ON

- Assisted Professor Jeremy Hunsinger with the development of research for the ERIH (European Reference Index for the Humanities) with a focus on linguistics in publication, bibliometrics, and citation analysis.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Howard R. Marsh Postdoctoral Fellow / Lecturer I** 2026-Present  
Department of Communication and Media, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- **Instructor of Record**, COMM 408: *Special Topics in Media Effects*, “Screening Gender-Based Violence in the Age of AI-Facilitated Misinformation.”
- **Instructor of Record**, COMM 405: *Advanced Seminar in Mass Media and Mass Communication*, “Suburban Dads and Mad Men: Televising Masculinities from the 1950s to the Present.”

**Graduate Student Instructor** 2026  
Department of Communication and Media, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- **GSI, COMM 365**: Visual Culture and Visual Literacy, Upper-Level Writing Course

**Instructor of Record** 2025  
Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- **FTVM 366/WGS 345**: *Topics in Film, Television, and Popular Culture*, “Suburban Dads and Mad Men: Televising Masculinities from the 1950s to the Present.”
- Cross-listed as WGS345: Special Topics in Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the U.S with the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies

**Graduate Student Instructor** 2020-2025  
Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

- **GSI, FTVM 375**: TV Theory & Criticism, Upper-Level Writing Course
- **GSI, FTVM 376**: New Media Theory, Upper-Level Writing Course
- **GSI, FTVM 355**: Television History
- **GSI, FTVM 202/DIGITAL220**: Introduction to Digital Media Studies
- **GSI, FTVM/GER 333**: Fascist Cinemas, Upper-Level Writing Course
- **GSI, FTVM 150**: Introduction to Film, Television, and Media
- **GSI, FTVM 366**: American Culture and the Sitcom Genre

**Lecturer** 2018  
School of Business and Sustainability Leadership, Lambton College, Mississauga, ON

- **Instructor of Record, ENG 3123**, Written Business Communication
- Taught 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.

## Teaching Assistant

2016

Department of English, McGill University, Montreal, QC

- **TA, ENGL 277:** Introduction to Film Studies

## Program Coordinator

2015

School of Continuing Studies, McGill University, Montreal, QC

- **Assistant, CPRL 221:** Professional Business Communication and Networking Summer Abroad Program in Business Communication

## CONFERENCE PAPERS

Hardiman, Amber. (2026). "Conceptualizing Institutional Misogyny and Its Mediation across Cultural & Industrial Sites in North America." Panel Chair & Speaker. The Society for Cinema and Media Studies Annual Conference. Chicago, IL.

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, UK.

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

**Selected Participant**, Institute for Social Change & Program in Public Scholarship, Ginsberg Center for Community Service and Learning, University of Michigan. 2026.

**Reviewer**, *Media and Popular Culture*. Rivera Publications. 2025-.

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

**Treasurer**, Graduate Student Association, FTVM, 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. 2021-2023.

**Volunteer**, The Women’s Center of Southeast Michigan. 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. Completed in partnership with the 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 EGSA. 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**

**Generative AI Essentials: Overview and Impact**, Michigan Online Learning. 2026.

**Rackham Doctoral Intern Fellowship**, 2025

**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, 2024

**Doctoral Fellowship, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada**, 2021-2024

**Rackham Conference Travel Grant**, 2024

**FTVM Trueblood Graduate Student Travel Grant**, 2024

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

**University of Calgary Travel Grant**, 2023

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

**Rackham Conference Travel Grant**, 2022

**FTVM Trueblood Graduate Student Travel Grant**, 2022

**Dean's Graduate Award**, McGill University, 2015-2016

**Arts Graduate Student Travel Grant**, McGill University, 2015

**Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD)**, Ontario Government, 2014

**Graduate Fellowship Entrance Award**, McGill University, 2014

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

**Queen Elizabeth Scholarship**, Government of Ontario, 2009-2013

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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

Assisted with collecting, producing, and disseminating stories of crime victims, survivors, and families that support second-look legislation. I conducted video interviews with various legal stakeholders and crime survivor organizations to ultimately produce an array of media storytelling that facilitates judicial review of the ineffectiveness 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 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.

**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.

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

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