

AMBER HARDIMAN

amhardim@umich.edu || Ann Arbor, MI USA | last updated 10/15/2025

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

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

Dissertation: ““Something of a Genre”: 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), 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, 1st Class Deans Honors Student

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Contributions

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, 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.

Forthcoming Contributions

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. R&R received 27 May 2023, in revision.

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

Research Assistant, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Assisted Professor Swapnil Rai with the creation of a podcast series about the global media industries.

<https://courses.lsa.umich.edu/globalmedia/> Fall 2023 to Spring 2024.

Research Assistant, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan.. Assisted Professors Yeidy Rivero, Caryl Flinn, and Johannes von Moltke with the implementation of FTVM 150, the department’s introductory course. Spring 2020 to Fall 2021

Research Assistant, Department of English, McGill University. 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. Fall 2015 to Spring 2016.

Research Assistant, Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, McGill University. Worked under Professor Alanna Thain as an assistant in the Moving Image Research Laboratory organizing weekly film screenings. Fall 2015 to Winter 2016.

Research Assistant, Department of Communication Studies, Wilfrid Laurier University. 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. Fall 2012 to Spring 2013.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, FTVM366: Suburban Dads and Mad Men: Televising Masculinities from the 1950s to the Present. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Cross-listed as WGS345: Special Topics in Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the U.S with the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. Spring 2025.

Grader, FTVM 375: TV Theory & Criticism. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Winter 2025.

Grader, FTVM 376: New Media Theory. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Winter 2025

Graduate Student Instructor, FTVM355: Television History. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Fall 2024.

Graduate Student Instructor, FTVM355: Television History. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Fall 2022.

Graduate Student Instructor, FTVM202/DIGITAL220: Introduction to Digital Media Studies, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Winter 2022.

Graduate Student Instructor, FTVM/GER333: Fascist Cinemas. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. This course satisfies U-M's race and ethnicity requirement and the upper-level writing requirement for students. Fall 2021

Graduate Student Instructor, Introduction to Film, Television, and Media. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan. Fall 2020 & Winter 2021.

Course Assistant & Grader, FTVM366: American Culture and the Sitcom Genre. Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan, Winter 2020.

Lecturer, ENG-3123, Written Business Communication. 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.

Course Assistant, ENGL277: Introduction to Film. Department of English, McGill University. Fall 2016.

Program Coordinator, Summer Abroad Program in Business Communication. McGill University's School of Continuing Studies. Spring 2015.

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." 5th 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." 7th 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 21st 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

Senior Editor, *Media and Popular Culture*. Rivera Publications. 2025-.

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. 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 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

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

Bursary for Students with Disabilities (BSWD), Ontario Government. \$2000 CAD, 2014

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

1st 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 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 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.

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

Available upon request.