

GRETCHEN SODERLUND
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Academic and Administrative Positions

Area Director, Media Studies, University of Oregon (2019-)
Associate Professor of Media History, School of Journalism and Communication,
University of Oregon (2014-)
Assistant Professor of Media History, School of Journalism and Communication,
University of Oregon (2013-2014)
Assistant Professor, Virginia Commonwealth University (2006-2012)
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, University of Illinois at
Chicago (2005-2006)
Assistant Director, Center for the Study of Communication and Society, UC (2004-2005)
Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Chicago (2002-2004)

Education

Ph.D. Institute of Communications Research, University of Illinois at Urbana-
Champaign.

B.A. English, Virginia Commonwealth University.

Fellowships and Awards

Outstanding Department Head Award, 2022, University of Oregon

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship in Communication and Society, University of Chicago,
2002-2004.

Social Science Research Council Sexuality Research Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2002
(declined).

Graduate Fellowship, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, Interdisciplinary

Fellowship on “Cities” Theme, 2000.

University of Illinois Graduate College Dissertation Travel Grant for archival research at the Schlesinger Library, Cambridge, MA; Yale University Archives; and The Smithsonian Institution, 2000.

University of Illinois Graduate College Enhancement Fellowship in Gender, Culture, and Media Studies, 1999.

Publications

Books

[*Sex Trafficking, Scandal, and the Transformation of Journalism: 1885-1917.*](#)
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013.

Special Journal Issues

Theorizing Sensationalism. Special issue of *Feminist Media Histories*. 8:4 (Fall 2022), with co-editor Amanda Frisken.

Charting, Tracking, Mapping: New Technologies, Labor, and Surveillance.
Special issue of *Social Semiotics*. 23:2 (May 2013).

Articles and Chapters

“Sexuality and the Print Media in the Modern World,” in *Cambridge World History of Sexualities, Vol. IV*. Mathew Kuefler and Merri Wiesner-Hanks (Eds.).
Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2024. 94-113.

“Gretel Adorno,” in *The Ghost Reader: Recovering Women’s Contributions to Media/Cultural/Communication Studies*. Elena Hristova, Aimee-Marie Dorsten, and Carol Stabile (Eds.). Goldsmiths Press, 2024.

“Sensationalism’s Enduring Power,” *Feminist Media Histories*. 8:4 (Fall 2022) 1-32, with co-author Amanda Frisken.

“Scandal and Sex Trafficking,” in *The Routledge Companion to Scandal*,
Routledge, 2019. 361-370.

[“Futures of Journalisms Past \(or Pasts of Journalism’s Future\).”](#) *Boundary 2.0*
(August 2018).

["The Conspiratorial Mode in American Television: Politics, Public Relations, and Journalism in *House of Cards* and *Scandal*."](#) *American Quarterly* 69:4 (December 2017). 833-856, with co-author Patrick Jones.

"The Progressive Movement." In *The International Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. Kevin Barnhurst, Ken'ichi Ikeda, Rousiley Maia, and Harmut Wessler (Eds.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell, 2016.

"Introduction to *Charting, Tracking, and Mapping: New Technologies, Labor, and Surveillance*." *Social Semiotics*. 23:2 (May 2013).

"Approaches to Gender and Sexuality in Media History." In *Media History and the Foundations of Media Studies*, John Nerone (Ed.), Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

"The Rhetoric of Revelation: Sex Trafficking and the Journalistic Exposé." *Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development*. 2:2 (Summer 2011): 193-211.

"Journalist or Panderer? Framing Underage Web Cam Sites." *Sexuality Research and Social Policy Studies* 5:4 (2008). 62-72.

"Communications Scholarship as Ritual: James Carey's Cultural Model of Communication." In *Thinking With James Carey: Essays on Communication, Transportation, History*. Jeremy Packer and Craig Robertson (Eds.). New York: Peter Lang, 2006. 100-117.

"Running from the Rescuers: New U.S. Crusades Against Global Sex Trafficking and the Rhetoric of Abolition." *Feminist Formations* 17:3 (Fall 2005). 64-87.

"Rethinking a Curricular Icon: The Institutional and Ideological Foundations of Walter Lippmann." *The Communication Review* 8:3 (July/September 2005). 307-327.

"The Politics and Presumptions of Anti-Trafficking Rhetoric." In *Collective Action: A Bad Subjects Anthology*. Megan Shaw Prelinger and Joel Shalit (Eds.). London: Pluto Press, 2004.

"Threat or Opportunity: Sexuality, Gender, and the Ebb and Flow of Traffic as Discourse." *Canadian Woman Studies/ les cahiers de la femme*. 22:3/4 (Spring/Summer 2003). 6-26. (Penelope Saunders, co-author)

"Covering Urban Vice: 'White Slavery,' *The New York Times*, and the Construction of Journalistic Knowledge." *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 19:4 (December 2002). 438-460.

Selected Other Work

[“Dropout Professors,”](#) *Inside Higher Ed* (May 18, 2021).

“Giz Asks: [Which Historical Figure was the Mark Zuckerberg of Their Time?](#)” *Gizmodo* May 11, 2020.

“Sound the Trumpettes,” *In Media Res*, March 2020 (with Laura Strait).

[“Anti-Trafficking Movements and Journalism: Who Sets the Agenda?”](#) *Open Democracy* 2015.

Work in Progress

The Sex Work Safety Net: Early Internet Mobilization by Sex Worker Activists in the 1990s (book manuscript in progress).

Mediating Sexuality: Global Histories of Representation, Regulation, and Resistance, co-edited with Shehram Mokhtar (edited collection in progress)

“Global Print Networks and Anti-Vice Activism” (chapter in progress)

Book Reviews

Review of April Haynes’ *Riotous Flesh: Women, Physiology, and the Solitary Vice in Nineteenth-Century America*. *American Historical Review* 121:5, 2016.

Review of Anya Schiffrin’s *Global Muckraking: 100 Years of Investigative Journalism Around the World*. *American Journalism* 33:1, 2016.

Review of Stephanie Limoncelli’s *The Politics of Trafficking: The First International Movement to Combat the Sexual Exploitation of Women*. *American Journal of Sociology* 116:6, 2011.

Review of Pablo Boczkowski’s *Digitizing the News: Innovation in Online Newspapers*. *American Journal of Sociology* 111:4, 2006.

Review of Gail Mason’s *The Spectacle of Violence: Homophobia, Gender, and Knowledge*. *Feminist Media Studies* 2:2, 2002.

Invited Lectures and Interviews

“The Roots of the Sex Industry in the U.S., 1850s-1930s.” Invited Speaker at Hacking/Hustling’s “Trains, Texts, and Tits” symposium, May 7, 2021.

“Audience Fragmentation and the Normalization of Conspiracy.” Presented at the “Conspiracy Theory, Politics and Representation” Symposium, Derby, UK, July 2019 (with Patrick Jones).

“Command Control Technologies and Surveillance Labor.” Invited panelist on the OSU Center for the Humanities “Politics of Surveillance, Past, Present, and Future” symposium,” October 11, 2017.

“Journalism’s Shifting Axis of Truth: Gender and Sensationalism in the 1890s.” Invited talk presented at the University of Minnesota’s Department of Communication Studies’ “Wednesday Noon Research Seminar,” October 17, 2013.

Radio Interview with Catskill Review of Books about *Sex Trafficking, Scandal, and the Transformation of Journalism, 1885-1917*. October, 2013.

Podcast Interview for the New Books Network about *Sex Trafficking, Scandal, and the Transformation of Journalism*. June 2013.

“A Spreading But Hidden Evil: Sex Trafficking as America’s Master Humanitarian Narrative.” Invited presentation delivered to the “Gender of Humanitarian Narratives” Workshop at the University of Connecticut, May 2009.

“Human Trafficking and Human Security.” Invited lecture and debate with Roger Plant, head of the United Nation’s Special Programme to Combat Forced Labor. Delivered at Lewis and Clark College, 46th Annual International Affairs Symposium, April 8, 2008.

“Documenting Sex Workers’ Lives.” Invited roundtable participant and moderator, Wellesley College, October 2005

“Challenging Media Representations of Trafficking.” Invited lecture delivered to the Program for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Health, and Human Rights, Columbia University, March 2004.

“Walter Lippmann: Communication’s Ironic Totemic Icon.” Invited lecture at Department of Communication, University of Pittsburgh, March 2004.

“Revisiting the Traffic in Women: Mass Media and Recent Feminist Campaigns Against the Global Sex Trade.” Invited lecture at the Women’s Studies Program, University of Pittsburgh, March 2004.

“Journalism and Representations of Sexual Victimization.” Invited participant on the Columbia University Roundtable on Sexual Human Rights, Columbia University, June 2003.

Invited panelist on the Midwest Public Forum on Media Ownership, Northwestern University School of Law, April 2003.

“Is News Subversive?” Invited response to Michael Schudson, Political Communication and Society Workshop, University of Chicago, April 2003.

“Deadly Exchanges: Prostitution, the Media, and the Politics of HIV/AIDS.” Invited lecture for the National AIDS Day Conference, Danville IL Community College, February 1998.

Conference Papers Presented/Panels Organized

(Panel Respondent) “Which Side are you On? Advocacy Journalism and the Limits of Objectivity.” American Historical Association, Philadelphia, January 2023.

“British Newspaper Imperialism and the Age of Consent Debates.” Presented at the International Communication Association Conference, Paris, France, May 2022.

“Theories of Sensationalism.” Western Association of Women Historians, April 2020 (canceled due to Covid-19).

“Sound the Trumpettes! Gender, Nationalism, and the Politics of Immigration in the U.S.” Presented at the IAMCR Conference, Madrid, Spain, July 2018 (with Laura Strait).

“Women’s Movements, Citizenship, and Post-Moral Conservatism.” Presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 2018 (with Laura Strait).

“The History of Questioning Journalism’s Future.” Presented at the What is Journalism? Conference, Portland, OR, April 2015.

“Muckraking and Transatlantic Media Flows, 1893-1902.” Accepted by the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, November 2014.

(Panel Organizer) “Public Relations in Process: Progressive-Era Business, Reform, and Postwar Professionalism.” Presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, November 2014 (with Thomas Bivins, David Greenberg, and Margaret Lamme).

(Panel Organizer) "The Unsettling Modernity of Reactionary Nineteenth-Century Social Movements." Presented at the American Studies Association Conference, Los Angeles, November 2014 (with April Haynes, Elaine Parsons, and John Nerone).

"Women Temperance Reformers and Public Relations Technique." Presented at the American Journalism Historians Association Annual Convention, New Orleans, September 2013.

"Revelation by Wire." Presented at the Stead 2012 Conference, April 2012, London, UK.

(Panel Organizer) "Journalism's Shifting Axis of Truth: Sensationalism, Objectivity, and Journalistic Style, 1885-1929." Accepted by the National Communication Association Conference, San Francisco, November 2010 (with Jon Bekken, Carol Stabile, and Andy Rojecki).

"Trafficking and Agency." Roundtable participant at the Social Science History Association Conference, Long Beach, CA, November 2009.

"American Journalism and Representations of Sexual Commerce, 1830-1910." Presented as part of the Berglund Honors Seminar, VCU Honors College, October 2009.

(Panel Organizer) "Charting, Tracking, Mapping: The Use of New Information Technologies in the Professions." Presented at the International Communication Association, Montreal, Canada, May 2008 (with Dan McGee, Aurora Wallace, Kelly Gates, and Rick Maxwell).

"Investigating Underage Web Cam Pornography." Paper presented at the International Communication Association, San Francisco, May 2007.

"Sensationalism, Gender, and Truth." Paper presented at the Console-ing Passions Conference, Milwaukee, WI, May 2006.

"Sex Panics and the History of Police Institutions." Paper presented at the International Association for the Study of Sexuality, Culture, and Society Conference, San Francisco, June 2005.

"Inventing Publics: The Ideological and Institutional Origins of Communications Research." Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, November 2004.

"From White Slavery to the FBI: Trafficking and the Rise of National Policing." Paper presented at the National Communication Association Conference, Chicago, November 2004.

“The Expert as Democracy’s Savior.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association, New Orleans, November 2002.

“Nationalism and the Traffic in Women.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association, New Orleans, November 2002.

“Imagined Communities in a Public Forum on Sex Advertisements.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Atlanta, November 2001.

“Covering Urban Vice: ‘White Slavery’ and Strategies of News Objectivity.” Paper presented at the “Producing Cities/Consuming Cities” Conference, Urbana, IL, March 2001.

“Walter Lippmann Confronts the Hysteric: Mass Media and Early 20th Century Moral Panics.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Seattle, November 2000.

“Narratives of Reproduction in Cold War America.” Paper presented at the International Communication Association, Acapulco, Mexico, June 2000.

“Stabilizing Cold War Fear: The Rosenbergs and the Maintenance of Crisis.” Paper presented at the National Communication Association, Chicago, November 1999.

“First Offender Prostitution Programs and the Institutionalized Rhetoric of Women’s Victimization.” Paper presented at the American Studies Association, Seattle, November 1998.

“Methodology in International Feminist Research.” Paper presented at the Union for Democratic Communications, Chicago, October 1997.

Graduate Mentoring

PhDs (Advisor)

Thomas Schmidt, UO (co-advisor - completed 2017)

Charlie Deitz, UO (completed 2018)

Shehram Mokhtar, UO (completed 2019)

Laura Strait, UO (completed 2020)

Spencer Cherasia, UO (current)

PhDs (Reader)

Norah Lind, VCU (completed 2010)

Shana Meganck, VCU (completed 2013)

Geoff Ostrove, UO (completed 2016)

Jeremiah Favara, UO (completed 2017)

Jeslyn Lemke, UO (completed 2017)

Endalkachew Chala, UO (completed 2018)

Ashley Cordes, UO (completed 2019)
Patrick Jones, UO (completed 2021)
Gubae Beyene, UO (completed 2022)
Andrew McLaughlin, UO (completed 2023)
Indroneil Bir Biswas, UO (completed 2024)
Teresa Caprioglio, UO (completed 2024)

MA Thesis (Advisor)

Christina Ceisel, U Chicago (completed 2004)
Tina Pamintuan, U Chicago (completed 2004)
Ajantha Suriyanarayanan, UIC (completed 2006)
Michael Means, VCU (completed 2013)
Thea Chroman, UO (completed 2105)
Adrian Black, UO (completed 2016)

MA Thesis (Reader)

Claudia Leuthardt, VCU (completed 2008)
Alyssa Midkiff, VCU (completed 2009)
Catherine Vann, Towson U (completed 2012)
Michael Hess, UO (completed 2015)
Frankie Sylvestri, UO (completed 2017)

BA Theses (Reader / Advisor)

Margaret Pilat, U Chicago (2003); Kenneth Aliaga, U Chicago (2004); Mirjana Jankov, U Chicago (2004); Jayati Ramakrishnan UO, CHC (2014); Savannah Carter, UO CHC (2015); Katy Larson UO, CHC (2019), Sophie Bange UO, CHC (2020), Melina Mallari UO, CHC (2023), Lauren Tokos UO, CHC (2024)

Courses Taught (UO)

J201: Media and Society
HC 223: 1970s American Media & Culture
J320: Gender, Media, and Diversity
J387: Media History
J412: History of Investigative Reporting
J413: Media Studies Senior Capstone
J415: Media Studies Research Methods
J610: Histories of the Press and Sexuality
J660: Historical Methods
J643: Advanced Doctoral Seminar

Courses Taught (VCU)

ENGL 206: American Literature, 1865-Present
ENGL 391: American Popular Culture
ENGL 391: News Narrative and Journalistic Form, 1700-1915
ENGL 391: The Media and Morality

ENGL 391: Social Media, Digital Culture, and the Self
HIST 104: American History, 1865-Present
HIST 401: History of Mass Media
MATX 602: History of Media, Art, and Text (Graduate Seminar)
MATX 690: Feminist Theories of the Media (Graduate Seminar)
MATX 690: Technotopias (Graduate Seminar)
WMNS 401: Gender, Humanitarianism, and Human Rights (Senior Seminar)
WMNS 401: Gender and the Media
WMNS 501: Feminist Theory (Graduate Seminar)
WMNS 624: Gender and Cultural Production (Graduate Seminar)

Courses Taught (Other Institutions)

Introduction to Communications
Ethnographic Methods
News as Genre and Social Force
Communication Theory
Mass Media and Society

Service

External and College-Level Appointments (UO)

Reviewer, Graduate Grants, Center for the Study of Women and Society, 2021.
Promotion & Tenure Case Preparation Committee, Cinema Studies, 2020.
Secretary, United Academics, 2015-2016
Strategic Task Force III (on Diversity), 2014-2015
Learning Management System Committee, 2013-2015

School-Level Appointments (UO SOJC)

Career Instructor in Journalism & Media Studies Search Committee, 2022.
Curriculum Revision Committee, 2022.
Endowed Chair in Documentary Search Committee, 2020.
Media Studies Area Director, 2019-
PhD Advisory Council, 2018-2020
Graduate Advisory Council, 2017-2018
Promotion and Tenure Case Preparation Committees, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021, 2022
Co-chair, Assistant Professor in Media and Intersectionality Search Committee, 2017-2018
Dean's Advisory Committee, 2015-2016
Chair, Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee, 2015

Area Director Review Committee, 2015-2015
Media Studies Search Committee, 2014-2015
Postdoctoral Fellow Search Committee, 2014-2015
Media Studies Speaker Committee, 2013-2014
Associate Dean Search Committee, 2014

College-Level Appointments (VCU)

Executive Search Committee, Chair of Mass Communication, 2010-2011
Faculty Council, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, 2009-2012
Advisory Committee on Undergraduate Research and Creative Scholarship, 2009
Dean's Level Media Studies Search Committee, 2008-2009
Undergraduate Academic Committee, 2007

Department-Level Appointments (VCU)

Search Committee, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, 2011-2012
Media, Art, and Text Admissions and Steering Committee, 2006-2012
M.A. Committee, Department of English, 2009-2012
Blackbird Advisory Committee, Department of English, 2007-2010
Technology Committee, Department of English, 2006-2011
Search Committee, Collateral in African History, Dept. of History, 2009
Personnel Committee, Department of History, 2006-2009
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Dept. of History, 2007-2008
Search Committee, Department of Mass Communication, 2006-2007

Selected Events Organized

Media Studies Senior Research Festival, 2020-present
Sexuality, Gender, and Women's Studies Monthly Brown Bag Lectures, VCU.
"Constru(ct)ing the Current," three-day conference on news and political communication, University of Chicago.
Lecture by Seymour Hersh, University of Chicago.
Lecture by Jarek Anders (Voice of America), University of Chicago.

Review for Journals and Publishers

Women, Politics, and Policy

American Journal of Sociology

Communication Review

Feminist Formations

Feminist Media Studies

Feminist Studies

Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

Sexuality Research and Social Policy

Social Politics

Surveillance and Society

University of Illinois Press

Heyday Books

Peter Lang