

# MARGOT SUSCA, PH.D.

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## EDUCATION

- 2012 Florida State University  
College of Communication and Information  
Ph.D., Mass Communication
- 2002 Columbia University  
Graduate School of Journalism  
M.S., Journalism
- 2000 University of Massachusetts at Amherst  
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
B.A., Journalism and Political Science

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- August 2020 to Present  
Assistant Professor of Journalism,  
Accountability, and Democracy  
School of Communication  
American University
- August 2013 to July 2020  
Professorial Lecturer  
School of Communication  
American University

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

### *Book*

Susca, M.A. (2024, January). *Hedged: How Private Investment Funds Helped Destroy American Newspapers and Undermine Democracy*. University of Illinois Press (History of Communication Series): Champaign, Illinois.

### *Reviews:*

- Philip Glende (2024). [H-Net Reviews in the Humanities & Social Sciences](#). May.
- Dan Kennedy (2024). [The Arts Fuse](#). January 16.
- Lenny Picker (2023). [Publishers Weekly](#). October 24.
- [Kirkus Reviews](#) (2023).

### *Journal Articles*

Susca, M.A., & Alkhalouf, A. (2024). "Presented as originally created": How Disney profits off racist content from the past on its streaming platform of the future. *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 41(2). <https://doi.org/10.1080/15295036.2024.2345225>

Proffitt, J.M., & Susca, M.A. (2015). A Shield to Legitimize Virtually Any Content: Tracking the video game lobby's political economic power. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 8(4), 594-612. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cccr.12105>

Susca, M.A. (2012). Why we still fight: Adolescents, America's Army and the Government-Gaming Nexus. *Global Media Journal*, 20(12).

**Susca, M.A., & Proffitt, J.M.** (2011). Patently offensive: What Pacifica tells us about regulating broadcast violence. *Communication and Democracy*, 45, 81-94.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/08997225.2011.10556369>

### **REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS**

**Susca, M.A.,** and Amro, D. (2024, August). Neither Ghost, Nor Desert But A Metropolitan News Gap: The Omission of Marginalized and Minoritized Communities from The Washington Post's Local Coverage. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Philadelphia, PA.

Susca, M.A. (2023, October). The Private Investment Era: Contextualizing 20 Years of Private Equity Investment and Hedge Fund Ownership in U.S. Newspapers. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Union for Democratic Communication, Philadelphia, PA.

Susca, M.A. (2022, May). The Newspaper Plutocracy: Building a Deeper Understanding of Private Investment Fund Influence in the U.S. Newspaper Market. Paper presented virtually at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Philosophy, Theory, & Critique Division, Paris, France.

**Susca, M.A., & Williams, S.** (2022, May). "See Where We Need to Exert Pressure": The Black Lives Matter Movement as Catalyst for Generation Z and Millennials' Willingness to Pay. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association, Journalism Studies Division, Paris, France.

Susca, M.A. (2021, March). "The Neglected Audience: A Political Economic Examination of Reporter Layoffs." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the AEJMC Midwinter Conference, Critical and Cultural Studies Division (virtual).

**Susca, M.A., & Alkhalouf, A.<sup>+</sup>** (2020, November). "Where the Caravan Camels Roam": How Disney Profits Off Racist Content from the Past on Its Platform of the Future. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communication Association (virtual).

Susca, M.A. (2015, August). A Critical Legal Study of Minors' Sex and Violence Media Access Rights Five Decades After Ginsberg v. New York. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Francisco, Calif.

Susca, M.A. (2015, August). "Here we go again": Seven Decades of Debate But Still No Agreement Over How to Define Violence. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, San Francisco, Calif.

Susca, M.A. (2014, August). "I Kill Czervenians: Adolescent Video Game Users as a Commodity Audience for War." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Montreal, Canada.

<sup>+</sup>indicates student mentee

## **INVITED TALKS AND PANELS**

**Susca, M.A.,** Chuang, A., & Williams, S. (2024). Students Covering Underserved Communities: Extractive Exercise or Democratic Deeds. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Participatory Journalism Interest Group and Media Ethics Division Panel, Philadelphia, PA. Published in proceedings. 10 August.

Book talk in conversation with John Sullivan of The Washington Post, American University, February 2024.

The Private Investment Era: Investigating 20 Years of Private Equity Investment and Hedge Fund Ownership in U.S. Newspaper Chains, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, April 2024.

Book talk in conversation with Mike Canan, Scripps Howard Foundation, sponsored by the Mercantile Library, Cincinnati, OH, April 2024.

State of the Media: On Crisis and Opportunity, WAMU Board of Advisors Retreat, Warrenton, Virginia. 4 November.

Knight Foundation, Local News Sustainability Workshop, Washington, D.C. 23 May 2023.

"Touching the (First Amendment) Third Rail," Newseum, Washington, D.C. 8 August 2018.

Susca, M.A. (2018). "Ethical Objectivity v. Minority Identity: Obstacles to Diversity in College Student Media," Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, Media Ethics Division Panel, Washington, D.C. Published in proceedings. 6 August.

## **NON-REFEREED WORK**

**Susca, M.A.,** C. Tong and A. Angle. (December 6, 2023). "Why faculty members are fleeing Florida: Dismay over the academic climate has led to a wave of resignations." [\*The Chronicle of Higher Education\*](#).

Susca, M.A. (2022, August). "We need a Bezos in Hartford." Investigative Reporting Workshop.

Susca, M.A. (2022, July). "GenZ willing to pay for news...sometimes." Investigative Reporting Workshop.

Susca, M.A. (2019, August). "Educating Emma: One intern's lesson in investigative reporting." Investigative Reporting Workshop.

Susca, M.A. (2017, December). Disney's potential 21st Century Fox merger continues troubling trend of media consolidation. The Conversation.

- Published by Salon and Business Insider.

Susca, M.A. (2017, November). Here's why your local TV is about to get worse. The Conversation.

- Published by Salon and The Honolulu Advertiser.

Susca, M.A. (2017, June). From the Pentagon Papers to Trump: How the government gained the upper hand against leakers. The Conversation.

- Published by The New Republic.

## **SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES**

- Disinformation with Paul Brandus, “No news is bad news,” June 4, 2023.
- Factually! with Adam Conover, “How Capitalism Murdered Journalism with Margot Susca,” May 29, 2024
- Journalism History Podcast, “How Private Investment Helped Destroy Newspapers,” May 6, 2024
- Columbia Journalism Review, “404 Media and the hopes of worker-owned journalism,” April 18, 2024
- WVXU, Cincinnati Edition with Lucy May, “The role private equity firms play in newspaper industry layoffs,” April 4, 2024
- Idaho Statesman, “Private equity firms prey on the middle class & destroy jobs,” March 10, 2024.
- Defector, “The Locusts of the Newspaper World’: How Fortress Investment Group Decimated Newspapers Before Gutting Vice,” March 6, 2024
- The Washington Post, “A top pipeline for local journalists is saying no to hedge funds,” March 5, 2024
- FOX5, “Many newspapers slashing jobs in critical election year,” February 11, 2024
- POLITICO, ‘The Investment Firms Leave Behind a Barren Wasteland’: A journalism professor blames Wall Street for the newspaper industry’s collapse, February 8, 2024
- San Francisco Chronicle, “How American newspapers have been stripped for parts,” January 28, 2024
- WNYC’s On the Media, Journalism’s “Private Investment Era,” January 19, 2024
- Scripps Howard TV, “Young people are increasingly getting their news online,” January 23, 2024
- Publishers Weekly, Stop the Presses: PW Talks with Margot Susca,” November 10, 2023
- Washington City Paper, “The Tweeters Behind Feeds Like DC REALTIME NEWS Make Every Shooting Known,” August 19, 2021
- Wisconsin Public Media, “How the Department of Justice Goes After Leakers,” July 22, 2021
- Cox Media Group, “WHO wants people to separate fact from fiction when it comes to Coronavirus,” February 28, 2020
- Voice of America/VOA Africa, “Fighting Fake News.” December 20, 2019
- Wisconsin Public Media, “‘Destroyer of Newspapers’ and Potential Bid for Gannett,” January 18, 2019
- NBC News Think, “Local News Doesn’t Have a Profit Problem, Corporations Do,” January 22, 2018
- WUSA9, “How should we handle reporting school threats?” March 6, 2018.
- BYU Radio, Is the Disney/21<sup>st</sup> Century Fox deal good for America?” December 13, 2017
- Dagbladet (Norway), “Fake News, Real News, and Misunderstood News,” December 13, 2016
- Wisconsin Public Media, “Did ‘Fake News’ and Social Media Influence the 2016 Election?” November 17, 2016

## TEACHING

### *Undergraduate Courses*

- Contemporary Media Issues\* (COMM 538)
- Children, Youth & Digital Culture\* (COMM 415/615)
- Censorship and Media\* (COMM 514)
- Journalism Capstone (COMM 462)
- Journalism Ethics\* (COMM 409)
- Reporting (COMM 320)
- Digital Skills (COMM 305)
- Contemporary Media in Global Society (COMM 280)
- Writing for Communication (COMM 200)

- Democracy Along the Red Line\* (CORE 105)
- Fight Club: U.S. War and Peace\* (CORE 105)
- Understanding Media (COMM 100)

### *Graduate Courses:*

- Doctoral Advisor (COMM 898)
- Research Design\* (COMM 755)
- Master's Capstone (COMM 720)
- Boot Camp for Journalists (COMM 624)

*\*created new course*

## AWARDS and FUNDING

2024

- Race Matters Grant, American University School of Communication, \$2,000

2023

- Faculty Research Grant, American University, \$2,500

2022

- American University Outstanding Teacher of the Year

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Student Newsroom Mentor, Online News Association, Washington, D.C. (September 1, 2017 - October 15, 2017)
- "Trauma Journalism Training," Reynolds Journalism Institute, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. (October 15, 2015 - October 17, 2015)

## SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION and AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

2019-Present

- Member, SOC PhD Steering Committee

2022-Present

- Member, Merit Committee
  - Chairperson, 2023-2024

2019-2020

- Member, Faculty Search Committee, Media, Technology & Democracy search

2017-2022

- Member, Ethical Reasoning Committee

2017-2020

- Member, AU Core Council

2015-2020

- Program Director, M.A. Journalism and Digital Storytelling

- 2015-2016
- Member, General Education Committee
- Member, Study Abroad Committee
- Member, Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Term Faculty

2014-2015

- Member, Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Term Faculty
- Member, Journalism Undergraduate Curriculum Sub-committee
- Complex Problems Fellow

2013-2014

- Member, ACEJMC Accreditation Self-study Committee

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

2016-Present

- Assessor, International Fact Check Network, Poynter Institute

2023

- Journalism Advisor, *Stripped for Parts: American Journalism on the Brink*. Rick Goldsmith Films. Documentary released in October 2023.
- Conference Paper Reviewer, Union for Democratic Communication and AEJMC

2021

- Conference Paper Reviewer, International Communication Association

2019-2020

- Journal Article Reviewer, *Feminist Media Studies*
- Maynard 200 Fellowship Mentor, Storytelling & Investigative Journalism Track, Maynard Institute for Journalism Education

2015-2016

- Journal Article Reviewer, *Communication, Culture & Critique*
- Journal Article Reviewer, *Global Media Journal*