

INDIRA S. SOMANI

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM

HOWARD UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS

EMAIL: ISOMANI@AOL.COM, CELL PHONE: 202-441-0606

EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, College Park, MD

Ph.D. Journalism and Public Communication, 2008

Dissertation: Enculturation and Acculturation of Television Use among Asian Indians in the U.S.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, The Medill School of Journalism, Evanston, IL

M.S.J. Concentration: Broadcast Journalism, 1993

KNOX COLLEGE, Galesburg, IL

B.A. Independent Major: Media, Race and Gender, 1992

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

HOWARD UNIVERSITY (Washington, DC)

2012-Present

Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism, School of Communications

- Broadcast Journalism I
- Broadcast Journalism II

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY (Lexington, VA)

2008-2012

Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism and Mass Communications

- Beat Reporting for Print/Broadcast Media
- Advanced Electronic Journalism (Web and Broadcast Producing)
- Media, Race and Gender (New Course)
- In-depth Reporting (Investigative Reporting)
- Cross-Cultural Documentary Filmmaking (New Course)

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND (College Park, MD)

2004-2008

Adjunct Lecturer, Teaching Assistant, Philip Merrill College of Journalism

- Broadcast News Producing, *Adjunct Lecturer* (graduate and undergraduate students)
- Professional Seminar in Public Affairs Reporting, *Teaching Assistant*
- Seminar in Public Policy: Race, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Press, *Teaching Assistant*
- Media Literacy, *Teaching Assistant*

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (Washington, DC)

2003-2004

Assistant Professor, School of Communication, Division of Journalism

- Broadcast Journalism II (Broadcast Producing)
- Reporting
- Understanding Mass Media

RESEARCH

FULBRIGHT-NEHRU SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP, INDIA Aug. 2011 to Jan. 2012

- Researched the Western influence of Indian programming with news organizations in Delhi and entertainment companies in Mumbai
- Based in Bangalore at IJNM (Indian Institute of Journalism and New Media, www.ijnm.org)
- Supervised [CityCast](#), a website that functioned as a platform allowing all broadcast students at IJNM to post their stories on deadline
- Filmed a documentary about a major Hindu festival, Dev Deepavali (15 days after Diwali), in the holy city of Varanasi, based along the Ganges River.
- Guest lectured at various universities, including the keynote address at the Second Annual Conference of the Association of Communication Teachers of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry on “Media Education,” at Pondicherry University, Pondicherry, India.

ARTICLES IN REFEREED JOURNALS

- “Ingroup, Outgroup relations with Asian Indians in Australia,”
International Communication Research Journal to be published, May 2013
- “The American Filter,” *Asian Journal of Communication* August 2011
- “Becoming American,” *Journal of International & Intercultural Communication* February 2010

REFEREED PAPERS

- “Watching Indian Television in America: A Study across Five Major U.S. Cities.” To be presented to ICA (International Communication Association), Intercultural Communication Division, London, England, June 2013
- “Ingroup, Outgroup relations with Asian Indians in Australia.” Presented to MediAsia2010 (The Asian Conference on Media and Mass Communication), Osaka, Japan October 2010
- “History of NET and PBS programming on India, 1960s and 1970s.” Presented to BEA (Broadcast Education Association), History Division, Las Vegas, NV April 2010
- “Stereotypes of India on U.S. Television—Effects on Acculturation to Indian Television.” Presented to the NCA (National Communication Association), International and Intercultural Division, Chicago, IL, November 2009
- “Becoming American.” Presented to the ICA, Intercultural Communication Division, Chicago, IL May 2009
- “Acculturation to Indian Programming.” Presented to the BEA, International Division, “Second Place award in the Debut Competition,” Las Vegas, NV April 2009
- “The American Filter.” Presented to the AEJMC (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication), Cultural and Critical Studies Division, Poster Award Finalist, Chicago, IL August 2008

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

- “Emerging Questions about Old and New Media,” International Communication Division (Discussant), AEJMC, Chicago, IL August 2012
- “(De) Constructing Community: Theorizing Health, Citizenship, and Violence,” Cultural and Critical Studies Division (panel moderator), AEJMC, Chicago, IL August 2012
- “What have we Learned? Next Steps,” AEJMC Pre-Conference Workshop, hosted by AEJMC Task Force on Diversity, Chicago, IL August 2012
- “What does it take to make the transition work? Models and Needs” (panel moderator), AEJMC Pre-Conference Workshop, hosted by AEJMC Task Force on Diversity, Chicago, IL August 2012
- “Digital Dimensions,” Radio-Television Journalism Division (panel moderator), AEJMC, St Louis, MO August 2011
- “Media and Entertainment,” India Leadership Summit, University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, Chicago, IL May, 2011
- “Documentary: From creation to DVD distribution,” Documentary Division, BEA, Las Vegas, NV April 2010
- “Personal essay documentary—an effective tool for teaching cross-cultural issues,” Documentary Division, BEA, Las Vegas, NV April 2010
- “Media-Migration,” Mass Communication Division, NCA, Chicago, IL November 2009
- “How convergence changes everything: small towns, small programs, big challenges,” Small Programs Interest Group, AEJMC, Boston, MA August 2009
- “Enculturation and Acculturation of Television Use among Asian Indians in the U.S.,” *Journalism in the 21st Century: Between Globalization and National Identity Conference*, (organized by the University of Melbourne in cooperation with ICA), Melbourne, Australia July 2009
- “Cross-cultural documentary films,” Documentary Division, BEA, Las Vegas, NV April 2009
- “Ethics and How to Get Hired—or NOT, The Unexpected Opportunity,” Writing Division, BEA, Las Vegas, NV April 2009
- “Documentary Research: Paper Competition and Preproduction Research Competition,” Judge for Documentary Division, BEA, Las Vegas, NV April 2009
- “The Transnational Audience,” Cultural and Critical Studies Division, AEJMC, Chicago, IL August 2008
- “International Co-Productions,” Delray Beach Film Festival, Delray Beach, FL May 2008

“Diverse Voices from Underused Archives,” History Division, AEJMC, New York, NY March 2006

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

CROSSING LINES, *Co-Producer, Co-Director, Co-Writer, Cinematographer*

30-minute documentary about my experience as an Indian American woman who returns to India for the first time after her father’s death (www.crossinglinesthefilm.com)

- Distributed for Public Television by NETA 2008-2011
(NETA- National Educational Telecommunications Association)
- DVD Distribution by *New Day Films*, Harriman, NY 2009 to present

Cities of Juried Festivals/Screenings for Crossing Lines

Nov. 2007 to March 2010

Washington, DC; Harrisonburg, VA; Springfield, IL; Charlottesville, VA; Rochester, NY; Dallas, TX; Baltimore, MD; Lexington, VA; Cupertino, CA; Honolulu, HI; New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Temecula, CA; Piscataway, NJ; West Valley City, UT; Silver Spring, MD; Austin, TX; Delray Beach, FL; Atlanta, GA; Mumbai, India; Dargle, South Africa; Sydney and Melbourne, Australia; Tamworth and Birmingham, England.

Public Television Screenings of Crossing Lines

July 2011-May 2008

More than 100 screenings on PBS affiliates across the U.S.

Film Awards for Crossing Lines

- “Honorable Mention,” University Film and Video Assn. August 2009
- “Best American Documentary,” Heart of England International Film Festival June 2009
- “Best Documentary-Short Format,” American Women in Radio & TV June 2009
- “Bronze Palm Winner” Mexico International Film Festival May 2009
- “Best Documentary Award,” California Arts Assn. Digital Short Film Festival Jan. 2009
- “Runner Up for The Best Short Documentary Film,” Baltimore Women’s Film Festival Oct. 2008

JOURNALISM POSITIONS

CNBC (Fort Lee, NJ)

October 2001 to June 2002

Producer, “Wake-up Call”

- Overnight shift producer of 2-hour morning business program anchored from the NASDAQ
- Wrote packages/scripts, researched business stories, followed earnings reports, and developed guest segments

Senior Producer, “Early Today”

June 2001 to October 2001

- Produced 30-minute network newscast that aired on 200 NBC affiliates
- Managed a staff of 10 associate producers, writers, editors, graphic artists
- After Sept. 11th, developed more “general” news resources for *Early Today* using MSNBC’s foreign and domestic desks, tape library, and graphics in line with *The Today Show* and *Nightly News* “look”

YAHOO! FINANCE VISION (New York, NY)

March 2001 to June 2001

Freelance Field Producer (streaming media)

- Followed stocks on NYSE or NASDAQ, produced original content for hourly updates

- Wrote headlines for corresponding graphics with live shots streamed in real time

STOCKHOUSE MEDIA CORP. (New York, NY)

May 2000 to January 2001

Executive Producer (streaming media)

- Initial primary responsibility: launch broadband for dot com website
- Duties included teaching broadcast writing to editorial staff, coaching them on delivery, building studio in Toronto office, coaching and training broadband production coordinator, hiring broadcast writing copy editor; interviews with the CEOs of Island.com; TheStreet.com; and Netfolio.com
- Responsible for market summaries streamed on the site, content development

WJLA-TV (ABC affiliate, Washington, DC)

August 1996 to May 2000

Senior Producer, Producer, Off-air Reporter, 6 p.m. 11 p.m., Weekend Producer

- Overseas: Field produced live coverage from Vietnam, covering the 25th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon
- Domestic: Field produced profiles of Tipper Gore, Laura Bush, Ernestine Bradley, and Cindy McCain during the 2000 New Hampshire primaries
- Field produced Shuttle Columbia Launch from Cape Canaveral, FL and “Behind the Scenes Look” at ABC Soaps, New York, NY
- Washington, DC: Field produced “Working Woman” series. “Gracie Allen Award,” American Women in Radio and Television, 1998
- Also produced investigative, entertainment, and education stories. Produced special coverage on the death of Princess Diana
- Produced weekend shows, 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts; filled-in as morning show producer

WVEC-TV (ABC affiliate, Norfolk, VA)

October 1995 to July 1996

Producer, 11 p.m. and weekend newscasts

- Duties included story development, managing reporters in the field, planning weekend news coverage, producing Sunday morning show, “Top Stories,” produced special projects

WSBT-TV (CBS affiliate, South Bend, IN)

September 1994 to October 1995

Producer, 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts

- Duties included producing fast-paced local newscasts with frequent live shots, including satellite live shots, and special projects

WICS-TV (NBC affiliate, Springfield, IL)

October 1993 to September 1994

Producer, morning newscasts

- Produced 6 a.m. newscast; wrote and edited entire show, produced an hour morning newscast on Saturdays, produced Noon show

JOURNALISM WORK

Assorted articles, 23, in the following publications from 1984 to 2009: *India-West*, (Prime Minister of India’s State Visit to the White House, November, 2009; Toronto International Film Festival, Debut of “Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna,” September, 2006, San Leandro, California), *Medill* (Alumni Magazine), *OneWorld.net*, *The State Journal Register* (Springfield, IL), *India Tribune* (Chicago), *Life* (Morton Grove-Niles, IL), *The*

Bugle (Niles, IL), *The Monitor* (Medill Graduate Student Quarterly Newspaper), *Hinduism Today* (Honolulu, HI), *Spotlight* (Chicago)

GRANTS

Lenfest Summer Fellowship Grant (<i>Satellite TV Acculturation study in San Francisco, Atlanta \$6500</i>)	2012
Fulbright-Nehru Senior Research Fellowship, India (<i>Western influence of Indian programming, \$16,000</i>)	Aug. 2011- Jan. 2012
Lenfest Summer Fellowship Grant (<i>Satellite TV Acculturation study in Houston, Chicago \$6500</i>)	2011
Lenfest Summer Fellowship Grant (<i>Satellite TV Acculturation study in New York/New Jersey, \$6500</i>)	2010
Washington and Lee University, Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communications (<i>Crossing Lines, \$500</i>)	2009
Washington and Lee University, Office of the Provost & Dean of the College (<i>Crossing Lines, \$2500</i>)	2009
Lenfest Summer Fellowship Grant (<i>Satellite TV Acculturation study in Australia, \$6500</i>)	2009
Washington and Lee University, Office of the Provost, (<i>Crossing Lines, \$1000</i>)	2008
Department of Education (<i>Crossing Lines, \$900, Digital Visual Interface</i>)	2008
University of Maryland, Office of the Provost, (<i>Crossing Lines, \$1900</i>)	2007 & 2008
University of Maryland, Philip Merrill College of Journalism (<i>Crossing Lines, \$3500</i>)	2007
The Richard Eaton Foundation (<i>Crossing Lines, \$500</i>)	2008
American University Faculty Grant (<i>Crossing Lines, \$5000</i>) (co-wrote proposal, awarded to co-producer, Leena Jayaswal)	2004

OTHER AWARDS/FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS

ACS (Associated Colleges of the South) Summer Teaching Workshop, Orlando, FL	May 2010
Indiana University School of Journalism's Teaching Fellows Workshop, Bloomington, IN	June 2010
"Special Recognition Award" – The India Community Center" Rochester, NY	March 2009
Wakonse Conference on College Teaching, Muskegon, MI	May 2006
Scripps-Howard Foundation Scholarship	1992
NBC National Fellowship	1992

STUDENT'S WORK

Two students (worked closely), Mark of Excellence Awards, Society of Professional Journalists Television In-Depth Reporting (Sexual assault on W & L' s campus)	2010
Television Breaking News Reporting (Fraternity Fire)	2010
Students created five films about international students on campus	2010 & 2011

Students from my cross-cultural filmmaking class made documentaries about students from the Middle-East, Argentina/Spain, Africa, South Asia and China (2010); Vietnam, Latin America, Rwanda/Nigeria (2011); films used to increase international awareness at W&L.

SERVICE

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Howard University

- Dept. of Journalism: Student Affairs (2012- present), Technology (2012- present)
- Faculty Advisor to *Spotlight*, the closed-circuit student-run campus television network that trains and supports students producing broadcast stories and majoring in the field of journalism.

Washington and Lee University

- Film Committee (committee appointed to develop six-course Film minor) (2012)
- Oxford Exchange Committee (2009-2010)
- Fishback Fund for Visiting Writers Committee (2009-2012)
- Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communications: Diversity Subcommittee (2009-2012), Technology Subcommittee (2009-2012), committee to build new broadcast set (2009)

American University

- School of Communication, Curriculum Committee (2003-2004)

OTHER ACADEMIC SERVICE

- AEJMC's Diversity Task Force co-chair 2012-2013
- AEJMC's Diversity Task Force 2011-2013
- UFVA (University Film and Video Assn.)- Judge, faculty documentary award (16) May 2010
- BEA-Judge for student documentary award (5 student documentaries) April 2010
- Judged *New America Media Awards*, First National Ethnic Media Competition. Nov. 2006

NEW DAY FILMS

New Day Films is a filmmaker-run distribution company (co-op democratically run by more than 100 filmmaker members) distributing films to educators.

- Launch Coach 2009- to present
 - screen films from new filmmakers, interviews, checking sources, reviewing applications
 - help new filmmakers build a distribution platform for their documentaries

SAJA (SOUTH ASIAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION)

SAJA is an organization for journalists of South Asian origin and journalists interested in South Asia or the South Asian Diaspora. It promotes accurate coverage of South Asia and the South Asian diaspora.

- Videographer, SAJA's Annual Awards and Scholarship Gala July 2010, June 2011
- Moderator of panel on SAJA "Comes to DC" August 2010
- Mentor, SAJA's buddy program (connects young journalists to seasoned journalists) 2007 to present
- Participant, SAJA-DC: Coverage of "Navigating the Labyrinth" Conference, National Press Club, Washington, DC Feb. 2007
- Moderator of Panel, "How I got the story," Annual Convention, New York, NY July 2006

- Reviewed and critiqued broadcast tapes. Annual Convention, New York, NY June 2005
- Workshop Instructor, “TV News Production,” Annual Convention, New York, NY June 2004
- National Vice President, Convention Chair, New York, NY June 2002
- Participant of “Covering Washington” panel, Annual Convention, New York, NY June 2001
- Moderator of panel on “Anthrax,” New York Chapter, New York, NY October 2001
- President, Washington, DC Chapter 1997-2000
- “Outstanding story on South Asians in North America,” Technology Boom in N. Va. 2000
- “Outstanding story on South Asians in North America,” Diwali 1999

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, since 2004

International Communication Association, since 2005

Broadcast Educators Association, since 2008

University Film and Video Association, 2008-2009

New Day Films, since 2009

National Communication Association, since 2009

South Asian Journalists Association, since 1995

LANGUAGES

Russian: read and write, Hindi: general knowledge

REFERENCES

Dr. Ed Wasserman, Dean, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, 121 North Gate Hall #5860
University of California at Berkeley, Berkeley, CA 94720-5860, phone: 510-642-3394, email:
edward_wasserman@hotmail.com (former Knight Chair of Journalism Ethics, Dept. of Journalism
and Mass Communications, Washington and Lee University)

Prof. Pam Luecke, Reynolds Professor of Business Journalism, Dept. Head of Journalism and Mass
Communications, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450, phone: 540 458-8435,
email: lueckep@wlu.edu

Dr. Don Heider, Dean, School of Communication, Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, IL 60611,
phone: 312- 915-6548, email: dheider@luc.edu (dissertation advisor and former Associate Dean of
University of Maryland, Philip Merrill College of Journalism)

Dr. Linda Steiner, Professor, Director of Research and Doctoral Studies, Philip Merrill College of
Journalism, University of Maryland College Park, MD, 20742-7111, phone: 301-405-2426
email: lsteiner@jmail.umd.edu

Dr. Carolyn Byerly, Professor of Journalism, Dept. of Journalism, School of Communications,
Howard University, Washington, DC, 20059. Phone: 202-806-5121, email: cbyerly@earthlink.net