

MARGOT SUSCA, PH.D.

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American University
Washington, D.C. 20016
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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

Assistant Professor of Journalism, Accountability, and Democracy

August 2020 to Present, American University, School of Communication, Washington, D.C.

Professorial Lecturer

August 2013 to July 2020, American University, School of Communication, Washington, D.C.

Adjunct Professor of Journalism

August 2011 to May 2013, Florida A&M University, School of Journalism & Graphic Communications, Tallahassee, Fla.

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:

- Brian Creech (2024). [Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly](#). October.
- Edgar Simpson (2024). [Journalism History](#). October.
- Ryan McCullough (2024). [Communication Research Trends](#).
- 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>

SELECTED REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

Susca, M.A., and Amro, D.⁺ (2024, August). Neither ghost, nor desert but 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.⁺ (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.

[†]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.

Susca, Margot. "The Private Investment Era: Investigating 20 Years of Private Equity Investment and Hedge Fund Ownership in U.S. Newspaper Chains." Temple University, 9 Apr. 2024, Philadelphia. Address.

Susca, Margot. "Hedged." Cincinnati Museum sponsored by the Mercantile Library, 11 April 2024, Cincinnati, Ohio. In conversation with Mike Canan of the Scripps Howard Foundation.

Susca, Margot. "Hedged." American University, 13 Feb. 2024, Washington, DC. In conversation with John Sullivan of *The Washington Post*.

Susca, Margot. "State of the Media: On Crisis and Opportunity." WAMU Board of Advisors Retreat, Warrenton, Virginia. 4 Nov. 2023. Address.

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

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.

Susca, M.A. "Touching the (First Amendment) Third Rail," Newseum, Washington, D.C. 8 Aug. 2018.

SELECTED 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. (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 *UPI* and *The New Republic* as "[The War on Leakers is About to Get Worse.](#)"

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES and INTERVIEWS

- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, “[Journalism professor warns of cuts to come,](#)” Aug. 12, 2024
- *Disinformation* podcast 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
- *Laid Off and Looking* podcast, “[Hedged,](#)” March 15, 2024
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*, “[Private equity and the newspaper industry,](#)” March 11, 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,](#)” Feb. 8, 2024
- *The San Francisco Chronicle*, “[How American newspapers have been stripped for parts,](#)” Jan. 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,” Jan. 23, 2024
- Publishers Weekly, “[Stop the Presses: PW Talks with Margot Susca,](#)” Nov. 10, 2023
- *Washington City Paper*, “[The Tweeters Behind Feeds Like DC REALTIME NEWS Make Every Shooting Known,](#)” Aug. 19, 2021
- Cox Media Group (TV), “[WHO wants people to separate fact from fiction when it comes to Coronavirus,](#)” Feb. 28, 2020
- *Voice of America/VOA Africa*, “[Fighting Fake News.](#)” Dec. 20, 2019
- *Wisconsin Public Radio*, “‘Destroyer of Newspapers’ and Potential Bid for Gannett,” Jan. 18, 2019
- NBC News Think, “[Local News Doesn’t Have a Profit Problem, Corporations Do,](#)” Jan. 22, 2018
- WUSA9, “How should we handle reporting school threats?” March 6, 2018.
- *BYU Radio*, “Is the Disney/21st Century Fox deal good for America?” Dec. 13, 2017
- *Dagbladet* (Norway), “Fake News, Real News, and Misunderstood News,” December 13, 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*

SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION and AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

2019-Present

- Member, SOC PhD Steering Committee

2022-2024

- Member, Merit Committee
 - Chairperson, 2023-2024

2019-2020

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

2017-2022

- Member, Ethical Reasoning Committee, AU Core

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 Re-accreditation Self-study Committee

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 PROFESSION

2016-Present

- Assessor, International Fact Check Network, The Poynter Institute for Media Studies

2024

- Conference Paper Reviewer, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication
- Eurasia Foundation, Educator and Facilitator, Press Freedom and Investigative Journalism

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 International Communication Association

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*

AWARDS and HONORS

2024

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

2023

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

2022

- American University
Outstanding Teacher of the Year