

# ANJALI DASSARMA

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Media history, newspaper culture, slavery studies, colonialism, archival silences, knowledge production, historiography, sociology, and digital humanities

## EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, PhD in Communication  
August 2022- Expected May 2027

Brown University, MA in American Studies  
August 2021- May 2022  
GPA: 4.0

University of Maryland, Baltimore County, BA in Media and Communication Studies  
August 2017- May 2021  
Minor: Journalism  
Humanities Scholar and Honors College student  
Major GPA: 4.0  
Overall GPA: 3.8

King's College London, Junior semester abroad, Fall 2019  
Focus: Communication, journalism, film and culture

## EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, **University of Pennsylvania**, January 2023 – Present

- Working with Professor Barbie Zelizer on a literature review and a project focused on journalism, slavery, and history.

Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Media at Risk, **University of Pennsylvania**,  
September 2022 – Present

- Participant and member of the Center for Media at Risk.
- Attends programming and workshops.
- Developing research under the Center, aligned with the goal of protecting and querying the role of the press in American society.
- Assisted in data migration while updating the Center's website.

Doctoral Fellow at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication,

**University of Pennsylvania, October 2022 – Present**

- Participant and member of the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication, or CARGC.
- Attends seminars and colloquia, monthly workshops, and events.

Research Fellow, **University of Pennsylvania**, August 2022 – December 2023

- Assisted Professor Joseph Turow with research for projects and lectures, including the 15th annual Berkeley Center For Law & Technology Privacy Lecture: Playing the Long Game.
- Worked with Prof. Turow on media literacy education and data privacy that resulted in my contribution to a report entitled “[Americans Can’t Consent to Companies’ Use of Their Data.](#)”

Course Assistant, **Brown University**, January 2022 – May 2022

- Worked as an assistant for History Professor Linford Fisher's course, "Captive Voices: Atlantic Slavery in the Digital Age."
- Held office hours and serves as a resource regarding slavery studies and digital humanities work for undergraduate students at Brown.
- Planned trips for students to interact directly with historical archives at the John Carter Brown Library, John Hay Library, and the Rhode Island Historical Society
- Conducted and facilitated archival research related to the course and provided administrative support to Professor Fisher.

Research Assistant, **Brown University**, August 2021 – May 2022

- Worked under Professor Linford Fisher on the Stolen Relations project, a database that aims to archive stories of indigenous enslavement.
- Compiled articles mentioning indigeneity from colonial newspapers (1704 to 1804).
- Utilized primary source material to answer research questions: In the United States, what did the relationship between journalism and indigenous people look like before 1800? What do “objectivity” and “silence” represent within journalism? How is journalism a form of public memory and who has historically conveyed narratives and who has been omitted from narrative-making?

Editor-in-Chief, *The Retriever Weekly*, **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**, May 2020 – May 2021

- Oversaw staff of over 80 reporters, editors and technicians.
- Acted as a representative of the paper.
- Approved all articles before publishing and makes editorial decisions for the paper as a whole.
- Managed relationships with other campus organizations and worked to communicate with university administrators.

- Made all final editorial decisions.
- Organized full transition to online content and social media.

Noted Adviser, **The Wall Street Journal**, June 2020 – May 2021

- Was a member of the Wall Street Journal's digital magazine as a consultant and adviser.
- Participated in live sessions with the WSJ Noted staff via Google Hangouts
- Provided feedback about issues and reporting topics.
- Earned a LinkedIn certificate for completion of the program.

Maryland-Delaware-DC Reese Cleghorn Editorial Intern, **The Baltimore Sun**, June 2020 – August 2020

- Wrote 1-2 editorials per week for the Opinions page, including political columns, media criticism and Baltimore/Washington news critiques.
- Assisted in fact-checking, editing and reviewing Op Eds and letters to the editor
- Worked in a professional newsroom and met daily deadlines to create fast-paced and high-quality content.

Public Relations Intern, **The United Holocaust Memorial Museum**, January 2020 – May 2020

- Commuted and worked in Washington DC to help pitch and place stories about Museum public programs, events, artifact donations, survivor research news, etc. in local, regional and national outlets.
- Aided in updating/creating lists of journalists and potential reporters who might cover our major fundraising events, Museum statements and other initiatives.
- Monitored media coverage for the Museum's public programs in various cities  
Posted stories about the Museum from national media outlets on our internal website for Museum staff.
- Assisted communications team in overseeing documentary filming and broadcast interviews of Museum staff and survivor volunteers.
- Served as liaison between journalists and survivors.

Opinions Editor, *The Retriever Weekly*, **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**, February 2019 – May 2020

- Oversaw staff of 3-4 students to ensure the best quality editorial articles were produced and worked with students to provide constructive and helpful feedback.
- Used InDesign for creating layout in order to publish a print newspaper every other week, and weekly online.
- Examined and disseminated the agenda for the newspaper by managing the editorial board.

Ambassador, Study Abroad Office, **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**, September 2019- December 2019

- Worked as an ambassador sharing my experiences as a student at King's College of London.
- Wrote about current events including Brexit, economic and climate crises and a terrorist attack that occurred.
- Wrote blog posts about KCL activities and life in London.
- Utilized University of Maryland, Baltimore County social media to engage students in an [international experience](#).

Marketing Intern, **Atwater's**, July 2019- September 2019

- Aimed to solve the food insecurity crisis with advertisements of healthy food grown within urban gardens in Baltimore.
- Carried out digital marketing campaigns using Instagram, Facebook, and email and established brand presence on Pinterest.
- Practiced writing effective blogs and using SEO practices to boost website speed and Google rankings.

Communications Intern, **Newseum**, September 2018 – January 2019

- Worked with educators in order to propel the mission of the Newseum to uphold the five freedoms of the First Amendment.
- Presented the Newseum online through scheduling social media posts, created using Canva and Photoshop.
- Extended the outreach of the Newseum and assisted in the planning of events, including the 2018 Teacher Open House, which provided educators with media literacy tools to empower themselves and their students.

Reporter, UMBC Alumni Magazine, **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**, May 2018 – December 2018

- Worked as a features reporter to headline outstanding faculty and students at UMBC.
- Wrote extensive personal opinion pieces regarding topics including the Capital Gazette shooting in 2018.
- Received edits directly from the editor-in-chief of the magazine.

Digital Marketing Intern, Division of Professional Studies, **University of Maryland, Baltimore County**, January 2018 – August 2018

- Worked in the Division of Professional Studies to analyze data analytics, create spreadsheets with technical information and monitored the professional program websites at UMBC.
- Utilized online tools and Adobe Suite in order to communicate about DPS events and programs and represented DPS on campus by setting up advertising.

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- DasSarma, A., & Fisher, L. D. (2023). The Persistence of Indigenous Unfreedom in Early American Newspaper Advertisements, 1704–1804. *Slavery & Abolition*, 0(0), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0144039X.2023.2189517>

## HONORS / AWARDS

- Selected as an Emerging Scholar Fellow to the Milton Wolf Seminar in Vienna Austria (April 2023)
- Elected to the Events Committee, Annenberg School for Communication (2022-present)
- Elected Humanities Senator (2017-2021)
- Represented the University of Maryland, Baltimore County at the College Media Association conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota (June 2020)
- Invited to speak at the Howard County Community College newspaper (*HCC Times*) retreat (August 2020)
- Invited to speak at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County Media and Communications Council of Majors panel on internship success (October 2020)
- Established *The Retriever Weekly* Advisory Board with outstanding journalists from the Washington DC-Baltimore community
- [Article](#) selected for syndication by the Associated Press Wire published in 54 newspapers across the United States and abroad
- Student representative within administrative COVID-19 pandemic planning meetings at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- Featured in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for work as a student journalist during the pandemic

## MEMBERSHIPS / AFFILIATIONS

- International Communication Association (2023-present)
- American Historical Association (2022-present)
- Asian American Journalists Association (2020-present)

## CONFERENCES

- Presentation forthcoming, International Association for Media and Communication Research, Lyon, France, July 2023
- Presentation forthcoming, International Communication Association, Toronto, Canada, May 2023
- Presented paper entitled *Structures of Power and Sites of Resistance: Repositioning and Retelling the History of the Earliest Newspapers in “America,”* Lisbon Winter School, January 2023
- Poster entitled *The Persistence of Indigenous Unfreedom in Early American Newspaper Ads, 1704–1804* at the American Historical Association 2023 Conference, January 2023, with Professor Linford Fisher
- Presented *Relinquishing the “Newness” from the News: Historicizing Hegemonic Journalism’s Relationships with Truth, Whiteness, Slavery, and Ethics* at the

## TRAINING

- Completed Social/Behavioral Research Course through the Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (2022)
- Completed Brown University's Teaching Essentials for Graduate TAs (2021)
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## SELECTED JOURNALISM PUBLICATIONS

1. ["The best way for UMBC to fight voter suppression? Cancel classes on election day"](#), October 16, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
2. ["I'm not the same person I was seven months ago': We asked young people to tell us how this year has changed them. Here's what they had to say"](#), October 15, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
3. ["Sexual assault lawsuit filed against UMBC dismissed by US District Court Judge"](#), October 1, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
4. ["Everything is uncertain': We asked young people to tell us how this year has changed them. Here's what they had to say"](#), September 25, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
5. ["As the pandemic rages on, UMBC announces budgetary reductions"](#), September 10, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
6. ["Campus COVID-19 positivity rate of 0.7 % announced"](#), August 31, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
7. ["I'm definitely disappointed:' incoming freshmen face new set of challenges for the fall"](#), August 31, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
8. ["UMBC ramps up testing as students return to campus"](#), August 31, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
9. ["For teens and young adults, this turbulent year could reshape their lives. Tell us: What's changed for you?"](#), August 21, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
10. ["Yes, 'the media' actually is covering that"](#), August 6, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
11. ["Surprised by Rep. Yoho's abuse? Maybe you should ask yourself why"](#), July 30, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
12. ["CDC employees take on another pandemic: racism"](#), July 20, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
13. ["Five employees and two students test positive for COVID-19 on campus"](#), July 20, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
14. ["This book is for everyone,' UMBC poet, Calista Ogburn, publishes second book"](#), July 17, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
15. ["UMBC administration explain grading policy for the fall, break down pandemic's cost on campus budget"](#), July 14, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
16. ["Trump administration turns international students into political pawns with ICE ruling"](#), July 13, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*

17. ["An open letter to university administrators: Let's not revert back to normal"](#), July 10, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
18. ["Settling for Biden': the moral dilemma of a Biden presidency"](#), July 13, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
19. ["UMBC announces pilot program for COVID-19 testing"](#), July 7, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
20. ["UMBC police respond to racist slur written on Black employee's desk at BWTECH@UMBC"](#), July 7, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
21. ["Can positive peer pressure keep coronavirus off campus? Doubtful"](#), July 6, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
22. ["UMBC will open this fall and move online following Thanksgiving break. here's what else you need to know"](#), June 19, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
23. ["University System of Maryland: stop buying into current prison labor system"](#), June 15, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
24. ["Don't scapegoat protesters for coronavirus spread"](#), June 11, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun* (picked up by AP wire)
25. ["UMBC announced a roadmap for returning to campus. here's what you need to know"](#), June 1, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
26. ["UMBC student Yaw Owusu-Boaitey dies, leaving behind a legacy of serving his community"](#), May 27, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
27. ["A UMBC alum noticed masks were hurting medical professionals. So he printed 1500 ear guards"](#), May 25, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
28. ["Economic uncertainty looms over graduating students"](#), May 4, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
29. ["UMBC lost \\$23.2 million in the wake of the pandemic. Here's how it all breaks down"](#), April 30, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
30. ["Pandemic or not, life happens: COVID-19 prompts conversation about accommodations"](#), April 20, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
31. ["Contracted employees need to be able to speak for themselves"](#), April 6, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
32. ["UMBC students, faculty react to racism in the midst of COVID-19"](#) March 30, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
33. ["UMBC student reflects on death of renowned professor from coronavirus"](#) March 25, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
34. ["UMBC community restaurants brace for impact of COVID-19 closures"](#), March 23, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
35. ["USM schools to transition to distance-learning for rest of semester"](#) March 19, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
36. ["UMBC updates students about community members being tested for COVID-19"](#) March 17, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
37. ["Q&A with John Fox: Residential life responds with preparations for the COVID 19 pandemic"](#) March 12, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
38. ["You asked, we answered: UMBC administration responds to COVID-19"](#)



- [pandemic](#)” March 12, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
39. “[Pandemic plan released to \*The Retriever\*](#)”, March 11, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  40. “[Study abroad programs halted in the wake of coronavirus epidemic](#)”, March 11, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  41. “[New SGA executives begin their term](#)” February 26, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  42. “[UMBC Police hire new emergency preparedness director](#)”, February 26, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  43. “[Vandalism in the PAHB sparks conversation of security measures](#)”, February 12, 2020, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  44. “[UMBC Across the Sea: Thoughts on Brexit](#)”, December 4, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  45. “[UMBC Across the Sea: Violence in London](#)”, December 4, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  46. “[UMBC Across the Sea: The climate crisis can unite us](#)”, September 20, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  47. “[Double Dribble](#)”, June 18, 2019, Magazine Article, *UMBC Magazine*
  48. “[BSO musicians are the ones who are suffering](#)”, June 11, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Baltimore Sun*
  49. “[Institute of Marine And Environmental Technology Open House exposes public to science](#)”, May 8, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  50. “[University Health Services hours are not doing enough for students](#)”, February 13, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  51. “[Why I don’t feel bad that “you can’t say what you want anymore”](#)”, February 27, 2019, Newspaper Article, *The Retriever Weekly*
  52. “[What’s in a name \(pronunciation\)? A lot, actually](#)”, December 12, 2018, Magazine Article, *UMBC Magazine*
  53. “[CHEW-MBC aims to help students eat healthier](#)”, December 1, 2018, Magazine Article, *UMBC Magazine*
  54. “[Finding your niche – Emilie Llenado M.P.S. ’12](#)”, November 30, 2018, Magazine Article, *UMBC Magazine*
  55. “[Trax on Wax: A staple of Catonsville’s music scene](#)”, October 31, 2018, Magazine Article, *UMBC Magazine*

## REFERENCES

Available on request