

## **Susan Murray**

Associate Professor  
Department of Media, Culture, and Communication  
New York University  
sdm5@nyu.edu

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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#### **New York University**

Associate Professor, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, 2007-present.  
Associate Faculty, Department of Cinema Studies, 2012 – present.  
Assistant Professor, Department of Media, Culture and Communication, 2001 – 2007.

#### **University of Pennsylvania**

Wolf Visiting Professor of Television Studies, Cinema Studies Program, Fall 2010.

#### **Brooklyn College, City University of New York**

Assistant Professor, Department of Television/Radio, 1999 -2001.

### EDUCATION

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Ph.D., Radio-Television-Film, University of Texas at Austin, 1999  
M.A., Media Studies, New School for Social Research.  
B.A., Journalism, University of Wisconsin-Madison.

### FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS, HONORS

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Society for Cinema and Media Studies Katherine Singer Kovacs Book Award	2019
Invited participant, NEH Institute "Object Lessons" workshop	2018
Steinhardt Technology-Enhanced Education Fund	2017, \$9,000
National Endowment for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship	2015-16, \$50,400
Leboff Faculty Grant (MCC, NYU)	2014, \$1,400
NYU Center for the Humanities Grant-In-Aid	2014, \$1,500
American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship	2013-14, \$45,000
NYU Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship	2013- 2014, \$15,000
Hagley Museum and Library Exploratory Grant	2012, \$400
Professional Development Award (Steinhardt, NYU)	2014, \$3,500; 2011, \$3,000
AAUW American Postdoctoral Fellowship	2004- 2005, \$30,000
NYU Goddard Faculty Fellowship Award	2004, \$15,000
PSC-CUNY Research Award	2000 – 2001, \$3,500
William S. Livingston Graduate Fellowship (University of Texas)	1998-1999 \$18,000

## BOOKS

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- (in progress) *Closed Circuits, Distant Bodies: A History of the Operational, Instructional, and Surveillance Strategies of CCTV (working title)*.
- (2018) *Bright Signals: A History of Color Television*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. 2018, 328 pages.  
**Awarded:** \*2019 Society for Cinema and Media Studies Katherine Singer Kovacs Book Award.  
 Reviews: *Film Quarterly* (Dec. 1, 2018), *Leonardo* (Sept. 2018), *Choice* (Dec. 2018), and reviewed and listed as one of the “50 Best Books of 2018 So Far” by *Pop Matters*, July 26, 2018.
- (2009) *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture, Second Edition*, co-edited with Laurie Ouellette. New York: NYU Press, 337 pages. (Contains new introduction and chapters.)
- (2005) *Hitch Your Antenna to the Stars: Early Television and Broadcast Stardom*. New York: Routledge, 2005, 222 pages.
- (2004) *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture*, co-edited with Laurie Ouellette. New York: NYU Press, 2004, 358 pages.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

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- (2020) “All to See Where Few Can Be: Color Television as Electronic Surgical Amphitheater in Post-War Medical Education,” *Technology and Culture*, April 2020 issue. 9,513 words, *forthcoming*.
- (2019) “Medical School of the World: Education and Public Service through Postwar Medical Television,” *Television History, the Peabody Archives, and Cultural Memory*, ed. Jeffrey Jones and Ethan Thompson. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, *forthcoming*.
- (2019) “The Politics of Reality TV,” *Media and Society, 6<sup>th</sup> edition*, ed. James Curran London: Bloomsbury Academic, *forthcoming*.  
*Revised and updated version of 2011 article of the same name.*
- (2018) “Reviving the Technical in Television Histories,” *Companion to the History of American Broadcasting*, ed. Aniko Bodroghkozy. New York: Blackwell.
- (2015) “Never Twice the Same Color: Standardizing, Calibrating, and Harmonizing NTSC Color in the early 1950s,” *Screen*, vol. 56, issue 4, Winter: 415-435.

- (2015) "Reality Celebrity: Branded Affect and the Emotion Economy," co-authored with Laura Grindstaff, *Public Culture*, vol. 27, issue 1: Winter: 109-136.
- (2013) "New Media and Vernacular Photography," *The Photographic Image in Digital Culture*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, ed. Martin Lister. London: Routledge. 2013: 165-182.
- (2013) "Live from New York!" *Saturday Night Live and American Television*, ed. Ron Becker and Nick Marx. Indiana University Press: 40 – 55.
- (2012) "Amateur Auteurs?: The Cultivation of Online Video Content Producers," *Media Authorship*, ed. David Gerstner and Cynthia Chris. New York: Routledge, 261-272.
- (2011) "The Politics of Reality TV: An Overview of Recent Research," *Media and Society*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition, ed. James Curran, London: Bloomsbury Academic: 321-335.
- (2009) "'I Think We Need a New Name for It': The Meeting of Documentary and Reality Television," *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture*, Susan Murray and Laurie Ouellette, eds. New York: NYU Press. 2009: 40-56.
- (2009) "Reality TV: Introduction" with Laurie Ouellette, *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture: Second Edition*, Susan Murray and Laurie Ouellette, eds. New York: NYU Press.
- (2008) "Digital Images, Photo-sharing, and Our Shifting Notions of Everyday Aesthetics," *Journal of Visual Culture* vol. 7, issue 2, August: 147-163.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. Reprinted in *Images: Critical and Primary Sources*, ed. Sunil Manghani,. London: Berg/Bloomsbury, 2013.
- (2007) "'From the Profound to the Profane': HBO's *America Undercover*," *The Essential HBO Reader*, ed. Gary Edgerton and Jeffery Jones. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky: 262-273.
- (2007) "'I Know What You Did Last Summer': Sarah Michele Gellar and Crossover Teen Stardom," *Undead TV: Essays on Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, ed. Lisa Parks and Elena Levine, Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- (2006) "The Funding of Television," *The Television Industry Book*, ed. Douglas Gomery and Luke Hockley. London: British Film Institute: 10-13.
- (2006) "Selling TV Formats," *The Television Industry Book*, ed. Douglas Gomery and Luke Hockley. London: British Film Institute: 96-99.
- (2006) "TV as Spectacle," *The Television Industry Book*, ed. Douglas Gomery and Luke Hockley. London: British Film Institute: 106-108.

- (2004) "'TV Satisfaction Guaranteed!' Nick at Nite and TV Land's Adult Attractions  
*Nickelodeon Nation: The History, Politics and Economics of America's Only TV Channel for Kids*, ed. Heather Hendershot. New York: NYU Press, 69-84.
- (2004) "Reality TV: Introduction" with Laurie Ouellette, *Reality TV: Remaking Television Culture*, Susan Murray and Laurie Ouellette, eds. New York: NYU Press: 1-15.
- (2002) "Ethnic Masculinity and Early Television's Vaudeo Star," *Cinema Journal* vol. 42, No. 1, Winter: 97-119.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Reprinted in *Television: The Critical View, Seventh Edition*, ed. Horace Newcomb. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Reprinted as "Lessons from Uncle Miltie: Ethnic Masculinity and Early Television's Vaudeo Star," *Small Screens, Big Ideas: Television in the 1950s*, ed. Janet Thumim. New York: I.B Tauris, 2002: 66-87.
- (2001) "Our Man Godfrey: Arthur Godfrey and the Selling of Stardom in Early Television," *Television & New Media*, vol. 2, no. 3, August: 187-203.
- (2000) "Saving Our So-Called Lives: Girl Fandom, Adolescent Subjectivity, and *My So-Called Life*," *Kids' Media Culture*, ed. Marsha Kinder. Durham, NC: Duke University Press: 221-235.  
\_\_\_\_\_. Reprinted in *Dear Angela: Remembering My So-Called Life*, ed. Michele Byers and David Lavery. New York: Lexington Books, 2007.

#### ESSAYS & OTHER WRITING

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- (2019) "Why Color Television was the Quintessential Cold War Machine" in the "What it Means to Be American" section of *Zócalo Public Square*, hosted by The Smithsonian, January 24.
- (2018) "When Televisions Were Radioactive," *The Atlantic*, September 24.
- (2018) "Trump's Fake News Awards and the Danger of a Reality TV Presidency," *Newsweek*, January 16.
- (2015) "Transparent as 'Very Special' Television," *Public Books*, August.
- (2011) "Reality Television," *Cinema and Media Studies: Oxford Bibliographies Online*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- (2004) "Queer Eye for Big Brother," Op/Ed, *The Washington Post*, Wednesday, January 28.

- (2003) "Reality Television," *The Museum of Broadcast Communications' Encyclopedia of Television*, second edition, ed. Horace Newcomb. New York: Routledge.
- (2003) "Geraldo Rivera," *The Museum of Broadcast Communications' Encyclopedia of Television*, first and second editions, ed. Horace Newcomb. New York: Routledge.
- (2003) "Phil Donohue," for *The Museum of Broadcast Communications' Encyclopedia of Television*, ed. Horace Newcomb, first and second editions, (New York: Routledge) 2003.
- (2000) Entries on "Milton Berle," Sid Caesar," "George Burns and Gracie Allen," "Lucille Ball," and "Milton Berle," *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture*, ed. Tom and Sara Pendergast (Detroit: St. James Press) 2000.

#### LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

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##### **Invited**

- (2019) Invitation to speak at Hagley Museum Author Series, Wilmington, DE, September (specific date TBA).
- (2018) "Bright Signals," Light Industry (an event series and art space overseen by Ed Halter and Thomas Beard), Brooklyn, New York, October 30.
- (2018) "Bright Signals" book event and talk, NYU Center for the Humanities, New York, NY, September 25.
- (2018) "Bright Signals Q&A," Social TV NYC Meet-up, Sawhorse Media, New York, NY, July 27.
- (2018) "Bright Signals: A History of Color Television," *92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y Lunch Series*, New York, NY June 20.
- (2018) Invitation to speak on a panel on Israeli Television Drama, Safir University and Schusterman Foundation, Israel, June. (Declined)
- (2016) "Medical School of the World: Education and Public Service through Postwar Medical Television," at the Television History, the Peabody Archives, and Cultural Memory II conference. Peabody Awards/University of Georgia, October 28 -30.
- (2015) One of fifteen invited participants in *Television History, the Peabody Archives, and Cultural Memory*, Peabody Awards/University of Georgia, November 12-15.

- (2015) Presentation of my career trajectory at *Alumni Panel: The Intellectual Traditions of SMS*, Media Studies Department, The New School, October 19.
- (2015) "Reality Celebrity: Branded Affect and the Emotion Economy," *Celebrity in the Internet Era*, Institute for Public Knowledge panel; New York, NY: February 13.
- (2014) "'Natural Vision vs. Tele-Vision': Defining and Managing Electronic Color in the Postwar Era," Comparative Media Studies Colloquium, MIT, Cambridge, MA: April 10.
- (2014) "Color Adjustments: Standardizing, Calibrating, and Harmonizing NBC Color Television, 1950-1954," NYU Center for the Humanities Colloquium, New York, NY: March 25.
- (2013) "Reality Television's Accessible Celebrity," *Public Culture* Conference/Workshop on "Celebrity and Publics in the Internet Era," New York, NY: November 2.
- (2012) Keynote Address: "Postwar Reality Celebrity," *Celebrity Studies Conference*, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia: December 15.
- (2012) "The Hue and The Cry: The Construction and Reception of Color Television in the 1950s" Cinema Studies speaker series lecture, New York University, April 25.
- (2010) "A Bevy of Hues", Cinema Studies Colloquium, Cinema Studies Program, University of Pennsylvania, November 3.
- (2010) Q&A with *Law & Order* creator, Dick Wolf, Film Pioneers, University of Pennsylvania, October 16.
- (2010) Respondent for symposium, "United States of the Self: Makeover TV and the American Dream," Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, October 1.
- (2009) "Nostalgia, Home Movies, and Aesthetics of Loss", *Media and Belief: Memory, Religion, Visuality* at American University in Paris, Paris, France: June 19.
- (2005) Invited to participate in a roundtable discussion on "Contextualizing Current Changes" at the Un-boxing TV conference at MIT, Cambridge, MA: November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007.
- (2005) Keynote Address: "Locating 'the Real' in Non-fiction Television: Aesthetics, Traditions, and Genre," *Television, Aesthetics and Reality Conference*, Department of Languages and Cultures, University of Aveiro, Portugal: July 1.
- (2005) "Digital Film Historicized," Opening presentation at the Seminar in Digital Film, University of Algarve, Portugal: June 27.

(2004) "Reality TV," New York is Book Country, New York, NY October 3.

(2003) "The Future of Media", Cohen Lecture Series in the Humanities, Northampton Community College, Erie Pennsylvania: October 23.

### **Conference participation**

(2019) "Seeing Through Color TV: Packaging Attention in the Post-War Era," Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference, Seattle, WA: March 15.

(2018) "All to See Where Few Can Be: Color Television as Electronic Surgical Amphitheater in Post-War Medical Education," Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, March 16, 2018.

(2013) "NBC's Color Corp: Color Harmony and Fidelity in Early Color Television," Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual conference, Chicago, IL: March 8.

(2012) "NBC and the Construction of Electronic Color in the 1950s," Crossroads in Cultural Studies, Paris, France: July 2012.

(2011) "Colortown: NBC's Investment in Color, 1950-1959," American Studies Association, Baltimore, Maryland: October 23.

(2011) Chair of the panel "The Reality Principle: Epistemologies of Television", Visible Evidence 18, New York, New York: August 12.

(2011) "Genre Theory and Reality TV Format Protection," International Association for Communication Research Annual Conference, Istanbul, Turkey: July 15.

(2010) "A Bevy of Hues: The Reception and Aesthetics of Early Color Television" at the Society for Media and Cinema Studies Conference, Los Angeles, CA: March 20.

(2010) Chair of panel, "New Perspectives on Television History" at the Society for Media and Cinema Studies Conference, Los Angeles, CA: March 20.

(2008) Chair of the panel "The Looks of Television" at the Society for Media and Cinema Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA: March 8.

(2008) "I-Caught, Viral Video and Television in the Digital Age" at the Society for Media and Cinema Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA: March 8.

(2006) "Digital Images and Our Shifting Notions of Everyday Aesthetics", Association for Cultural Studies Crossroads Conference, Istanbul, Turkey: July 20.

- (2006) Chair of panel entitled "Digital Media", Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Vancouver, Canada: March 4.
- (2005) "Radio, Performance and Stardom in the Postwar Era", The Radio Conference, RMIT, Melbourne, Australia: July 12, 2005.
- (2005) "Close-up...the Stars Shine the Brightest!': Television Performance and Aesthetics I Early Television," Society for Cinema and Media Studies, London, UK: March 31-April 1
- (2005) Chair of panel entitled "Radio Outside the Home: Early American Radio (1920-1950) and Its Extra-Domestic Contexts", Society for Cinema and Media Studies, London, UK: March 31-April 1.
- (2004) Chair of workshop on "Reality TV and Its Implications for Television Studies", Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Atlanta, GA: March 6-9.
- (2004) "A Network of Their Own: Spike TV and the Male Audience," Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Atlanta, GA: March 6-9.
- (2003) "'I Think We Need a New Name for It': The Meeting of Documentary and Reality Television," Media In Transition Conference, MIT, Cambridge, MA: May 2-4.
- (2002) "Startling! Heartbreaking! Real!: HBO's Documentary Programming and the Quality Audience," Society for Cinema Studies Annual Conference. Denver, CO, May.
- (2001) "Advertising and Star Branding," Society for Cinema Studies Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., May.
- (2001) Organizer and speaker, "Brooklyn on the Small Screen," Brooklyn Festival, Brooklyn College, May 2001.
- (2000) "A Crash Course in Cross-Over Stardom: Teen Stars in Film and Television," Society for Cinema Studies Annual Conference. Chicago, IL, March.
- (1999) "Jewish Masculinity and Postwar Television," New York State Communication Association. Monticello, NY, October.
- (1999) "Our Man Godfrey: Arthur Godfrey and the Selling of Stardom in Early Television," Society for Cinema Studies Annual Conference. West Palm Beach, FL, April.
- (1998) "Reconstructing Viewing Publics and Industrial Desire," Rhetorics, Publics, and Public Spheres: Beyond the Millennium Seminar. National Communication Association Annual Conference. New York, NY, November 1998.



- (1997) "Lessons from Uncle Miltie: Comedy Stars, Masculinity, and the Domestication of Vaudeville in Early TV," Console-ing Passions Conference on Feminism, Video & TV. Montreal, Canada, May.
- (1996) "The Web We Weave: Stars, Fans and Gossip Online," Society for Cinema Studies Annual Conference. Dallas, TX, March.
- (1995) "Saving Our So-Called Lives: Girl Fandom, Adolescent Subjectivity and *My So-Called Life*," Console-ing Passions Conference on Feminism, Video and TV. Seattle, WA, April.

#### MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

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##### **Print**

*New York Times*, *New York Daily News*, *Toronto Star*, *Variety*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Miami Herald*, *Fort-Worth Star Telegram*, *USA Today*, *Village Voice*, *Newsweek*, *Newsday*, Reuters newswire, Associated Press.

##### **Radio**

American Public Media's "Marketplace," January 15, 2014; April 23, 2013; May 25, 2012; New Hampshire Public Radio's "The Exchange": Only guest on an hour-long, call-in program on the topic of reality television. Aired December 19, 2002.

##### **Television**

CNNfn "FlipSide": Only guest for a live, in-studio segment on reality television. Aired July 29, 2003.

Sundance Channel: Featured in *Aftereffect* documentary on the legacy of Marshall McLuhan: Aired March 2003.

NBC's *Today Show*: Taped interview for special on NBC's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Aired 2002.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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Faculty Judge, Peabody Awards, 2014 – present.

Peer Panelist, Communication, Rhetoric and Media, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship competition, 2018.

External reviewer, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study fellowship competition, 2018.

Reviewer for *[in]Transition: Journal of Videographic Film and Moving Image Studies*.

Organizer with Sharon Marcus and Sharonna Pearl of *Public Culture* Conference/Workshop on "Celebrity and Publics in the Internet Era," New York, NY: November 1-2, 2013.

External reviewer (along with Dana Polan) of MA program in Cinema & Media Studies at CUNY-Staten Island.

Steering Committee Member, *Visible Evidence 18*, New York, NY, 2011.

Editorial Board member, *Celebrity Studies* Routledge, 2008- present.

Consultant/Expert Witness for plaintiff in *Tokyo Broadcasting System vs. ABC*, 2011-12.

Consultant/Expert Witness for plaintiff in *RDF Media v. Fox Broadcasting*, 2005-2006.

Manuscript Reviewer for Duke University Press, MIT Press, Blackwell Publishing, Polity Press, NYU Press, Routledge, Wadsworth Publishing, Wesleyan Press, Continuum, Laurence King Publishing, and Wayne State University Press.

Manuscript reviewer for *Cinema Journal*, *JCMS*, *Television & New Media*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Celebrity Studies*, *Public Culture*, *Feminist Media Studies*, *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, *Children's Literature Association Quarterly*.

Advisory Board Member, *Encyclopedia of Activism and Social Justice* (CA: Sage Publications.)

Coordinating Editor, *The Velvet Light Trap*, 1994-1996. One of three coordinating editors of an academic journal of film and television studies.

## COURSES TAUGHT

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### **New York University**

*Special Topics in Visual Culture: Fundamentals of the Moving Image* (doctoral course)

*Dissertation Proposal Seminar* (doctoral course)

*Doctoral Seminar* (doctoral course)

*Origins of Modern Media: 1880-1950* (doctoral course)

*Mediating the Real* (graduate course)

*Cultural History of Television* (graduate course)

*Documentary and Reality Television* (graduate and undergraduate)

*Media Historiography* (graduate course)

*MA Thesis Seminar* (graduate course)

*The Sitcom* (graduate course developed and taught w/ Anna McCarthy)

*Social Experiences in Consumer Culture* (graduate course)

*Methods in the Interpretation of Popular Culture* (graduate course)

*Media Analysis (graduate course)*  
*Reality TV and the New Business of Television (undergraduate)*  
*Senior Media Seminar: The Real (undergraduate)*  
*Amateur Media (undergraduate)*  
*Postwar Consumer Culture (undergraduate)*  
*Mass Media and Society (undergraduate)*  
*Languages of Communication: Film, Television, Radio (undergraduate)*  
*Media Audiences (undergraduate)*  
*TV: History and Form (undergraduate)*

### **University of Pennsylvania**

*Television History (undergraduate)*  
*Realty and Documentary Television (undergraduate)*

### **Brooklyn College, CUNY**

*Mass Media and Society (graduate course)*  
*Critical Analysis (graduate course)*  
*Broadcast Seminar (graduate course)*  
*Mass Media: Content, Structure and Control*  
*Television and Radio: Industry, Institutions and Audiences*  
*Television and Radio Criticism*

### SERVICE

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### **New York University**

Advisory Board Member, NYU Center for the Humanities, 2014- present.  
 Search Committee member, Cinema Studies Department, 2017 –18.  
 Selection Committee, NEH Summer Stipend Program, summer 2017.  
 Selection Committee, NYU Center for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, 2015, 2018  
 Selection Committee, NYU Center for the Humanities Public Scholar Fellowship, 2017.  
 Selection Committee, NYU Center for the Humanities Doctoral Fellowship, 2016, 2019  
 Selection Committee, Curriculum Challenge Fund, NYU, 2013.  
 Organizer, Television Studies Colloquium (university wide) 2001-2002.

### **Steinhardt, New York University**

Member, Events Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2003-2004, 2007-2008;  
 2014-15, 2017-18. 2016-17, 2017-18.  
 Member, Ad Hoc Hiring Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2016-17, 2017-18.  
 Member, Search Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2004-5, 2007-8, 2009-10.  
 Chair, Search Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2007-8.  
 Member, Committee on Personnel, Media, Culture and Communication, 2007-present.  
 Undergraduate Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2002-3, 2006-7, 2009-10,  
 2010-11; 2013-14, 2016-17.  
 Doctoral Committee, MCC, 2003-2004, 2007-08, 2011-12; 2012-13; 2014-15, 2017-18.

Study Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2004-2007.

M.A. Committee, Media, Culture and Communication, 2005-2006, 2008, 2013-14, 2016-17, 2018-19.

Dean's Transition Team, Steinhardt School of Education, 2003-2004

Interim Faculty Senate Representative, Steinhardt School of Education, 2003.

Goldsmith's Committee, Culture and Communication, 2002-2003.

Steinhardt School of Education Doctoral Task Force Committee, 2002-2003.

### **Brooklyn College, CUNY**

Women's Studies Steering Committee, 2000-2001.

Chair, Curriculum Committee, Department of Television and Radio, 2000-2001.

Chair, Graduate and Faculty Research Committee, 2000- 2001.

Communication Major Committee, 1999-2001

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Society for Cinema & Media Studies

American Studies Association

Association for Cultural Studies