SARAH L. FLORINI

PO Box 870302

Arizona State University email: sflorini@asu.edu

Tempe, AZ 85287 website: sarahflorini.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Communication and Culture, Indiana University, 2012

* Pedagogy Certificate, Department of Communication and Culture (2009)

M.A. Musicology, Indiana University, 2006

B.A. Music, University of Louisville, 1999

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Director of the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics (2023-present)

Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Associate Professor (2021-present)

Film and Media Studies, Department of English

Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Assistant Professor (2016-2021)

Film and Media Studies, Department of English  
Arizona State University, Tempe AZ

Assistant Professor (2014-2016)

Department of Communication & Theatre Arts and the Institute of Humanities

Old Dominion University, Norfolk VA

A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow (2012-2014)

Department of Communication Arts and the Center for Humanities

University of Wisconsin, Madison WI

Future Faculty Fellow (2007-2008)

Communication Studies, Division of Liberal Arts

Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus, Columbus IN

AFFILIATIONS

Co-Leader of the DH Initiative

Affiliated Faculty, Social Technologies/Critical Data Studies, New College, Arizona State University   
Affiliated Faculty, Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics   
Member, Nexus Digital Research Lab Co-Op (2018)

PUBLICATIONS

**Books**

*Beyond Hashtags: Racial Politics and Black Digital Networks.* New York: New York University Press, 2019.

**Articles and Book Chapters**

Stevens, Nikki; Hoffmann, Anna Lauren, and Florini, Sarah. “The Unremarked Optimum: Whiteness, Optimization, and Control in the Database Revolution.” *Review of Communication*. Special Issue: Optimization: Towards a Critical Concept. Edited by Fenwick McKelvey and Joshua Neves. Review of Communication 21, vol. 2 (2021): 113-28.

Florini, Sarah and Barner, Briana. “‘I’m trying to be the rap Oprah’: Combat Jack and the History of the Loudspeaker Network.” *Saving New Sounds: Dispatches from the PodcastRE Project*. Edited by Jeremy Morris and Eric Hoyt. 82-91, University of Michigan Press, 2021.

“Podcasting Blackness.” *Race and Media: Critical Approaches*. Edited by Lori Kido Lopez. 153-162. New York: New York University Press, 2020.

“Enclaving and Cultural Resonance in Black ‘Game of Thrones’ Fandom.” *Transformative Works and Cultures* 29, (2019). <https://doi.org/10.3983/twc.2019.1498>

“This Week in Blackness, the George Zimmerman Acquittal, and the Production of a Networked Collective Identity.” *New Media and Society* 19, no. 3 (2017): 439-54.

“This Week in Blackness and the Construction of Blackness in Independent Digital Media.” *Race and Gender in Electronic Media: Challenges and Opportunities.* Edited by Rebecca Lind, 328-45. New York: Routledge, 2017.

“Disrupting the Past, Reframing the Present: Websites, Alternative Histories, and *Petit Récits* as Black Nationalist Politics.” *Social Memory in a Mediated World. Remembering in Troubled Times*. Edited by Andrea Hajek, Christine Lohmeier, and Christian Pentzold, 113-28. New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 2016.

“The Podcast ‘Chitlin’ Circuit’: Black Podcasters, Alternative Media, and Enclaved Social Spaces.” *Journal of Radio and Audio Media* 22, no. 4 (2015): 209-19.

“Recontextualizing the Racial Present by Retelling the Past: Intertextuality and the Politics of Remembering Online.” *Critical Studies in Media Communication* 31, no. 4 (2014): 314-26.

“Tweets, Tweeps, and Signifyin’: Communication and Cultural Performance on ‘Black Twitter’.” *Television and New Media* 15, no. 3 (2014): 223-37.

**Conference Proceedings**

“Transgressive Networks: This Week in Blackness and Resistance Through Online Programming.” *Selected Papers of Internet Research*, Internet Research 14 (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), 2013.

**Other Writing**

“Twitter and the Politics of Citation.” *Flow: A Critical Forum in Media and Culture.* May 24, 2019. <https://www.flowjournal.org/2019/05/twitter-and-the-politics-of-citation/>.

“There are Black People in the Future: Digital Technology and Black Prescience.” *Flow: A Critical Forum in Media and Culture*. March 24, 2019. <https://www.flowjournal.org/2019/03/there-are-black-people-in-the-future/>.

“Public Scholarship and the Stakes of Engagement.” Media Commons Field Guide. February 12, 2017. <http://mediacommons.futureofthebook.org/question/how-might-digital-and-media-scholars-and-educators-engage-commons-both-physically-and-onlin>

“From Silent Film to Hashtags: Black Media as a Mode of Resistance.” Birth of an Answer blog. June 11, 2015. <http://www.boaaevent.org/from-silent-film-to-hashtags-black-media-as-a-mode-of-resistance/>

Contributor at *This Week in Blackness*. thisweekinblackness.com, 2013 (site now retired).

Contributor, *Musical Borrowing: An Annotated Bibliography.* Project by the Center for

Research in the History of Music Theory and Literature, Indiana University School of Music. Online at [www.music.indiana.edu/borrowing/](http://www.music.indiana.edu/borrowing/), 2003.

SELECTED HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

Institute for Humanities Research (IHR) Publication Development Grant, $6,000 (2022-2023)

Institute for Humanities Research (IHR) Book Award Shortlist (2021)

Arizona State University

Faculty Cluster: Race, Queerness, and TikTok. $2,500 (2020-21)

Institute for Humanities Research, Arizona State University

Seed Grant, $5,000 (2018-19)

Institute for Humanities Research, Arizona State University

A.W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship, salaried position (2012-2014)

The Center for Humanities and Department of Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Teagle Foundation Collegium on Inquiry in Action Participant, $3500 (2008-2009)

Indiana University

Project on African Expressive Traditions Research Grant, $3000 (2008)

Indiana University

UNFUNDED GRANTS

“Tracing the Social History of Social Media: Marginalized Communities and Platform Adoption.” American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), $25,000.

“​​Community-based Research Methods for Social Media Platforms.” NSF Advancing Informal Learning In Stem (AISL) grant, $1.9 million.

WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED AND HOSTED

Technologies and/of Dominance workshop, The Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, Funded by the Dean of Humanities (Fall 2020)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Beyond Hashtags: Critical Research Methods for Digital Humanities.” ACNDigHum. Stanford University, March 24, 2021.

“Beyond Hashtags: Digital Media Research and Marginalized Communities,” DH Virtual Hour. IHR Digital Humanities Initiative, July 2, 2020.

“‘Like Your Favorite Auntie and Uncle Visiting’: Podcasts, Social Media, and Black Digital Enclaves.” Digital Studies Institute. University of Michigan, February 2019.

“Why Study Podcasting?” Panel participant. Podcast Symposium. University of California-Irvine, October 2018.

*“The Black Guy Who Tips* and Comedic Social Discourse.” Panel participant. Podcast Symposium. University of California-Irvine, October 2018.

“Oscillating Networked Publics: Black Digital Networks and Political Engagement.” Social Media and Citizenship. Department of Communication, University of Michigan. March 2018.

“Black Users, Enclaves, and Methodological Challenges in a Shifting Digital Landscape.” Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society Luncheon Series, Harvard University, December 2017. <https://cyber.harvard.edu/events/2017/luncheon/12/Florini>

“Oscillating Networked Publics: Contingent Uses of Black Digital Networks.” Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities Digital Dialogues Series. University of Maryland October 2017. <https://vimeo.com/237632419>

“Assembling Collectivity: Subjectivity, Community, And Digital Politics.” Panelist, LSA Bicentennial Symposium for the Digital Future. Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies, University of Michigan, September 2017.

"Remembering the Past, Understanding the Present: Digital Media and History in the Age of the Black Lives Matter Movement.” Virginia Wesleyan College. February 2016.

“Digital Media and Citizen Journalism in the #BlackLivesMatter Movement.” Junior Faculty Forum. Old Dominion University. February 2015.

“#JusticeForTrayvon: Digital Media Responses to the George Zimmerman Verdict.” Humanities Friday Lunches. Center for the Humanities. University of Wisconsin-Madison. January 2014.

“Disrupting the Past, Reframing the Present: Websites, Alternative Histories, and Petit Récits as Black Nationalist Politics.” Colloquium Series. Department of Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin-Madison. November 2012.

“Honoring the Past to (Re)create the Present: The Black August Hip Hop Project and the Continuing Influence of Black Nationalism.” POAET (Project on African Expressive Traditions) Conversations. Indiana University. January 2009.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Roundtable: “Disinformation and Global White Supremacy or Why the World’s Best Black Studies Program is at the Kremlin.” With Catherine Knight-Steele, Michael S. Daubs, and Kevin Winstead.

*AoIR 2022* (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), Dublin, November 2022.

“Citizen STEM and Algorithmic Research Methods on TikTok.” With T.X. Watson. Communication and Technology Research Escalator, *International Communication Association*, May 2022.

“Black Digitality: Libidinal, Critical Race, and Digital Community.” Roundtable discussion with André Brock, Catherine Knight-Steele, and Kishonna Gray. *American Studies Association*, October 2021.

“Uprooting Whiteness: De(con)structive Methodologies for Reimagining UX.” With Liz Grumbach. *Association for Computers and the Humanities*, July 2021.

“Of Memes and Mimicry: Look-Alike Grievances and the Alt-Right Exploitation of “Cancel Culture” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies,* March 2021.

“White Masculinity and Political Fandom: From Gamergate to Bernie Stans.” *American Studies Association,* Baltimore, November 2020.

* Accepted but not presented. Conference cancelled for COVID19.

“MLK, I CHOOSE YOU!: Contesting, Claiming, and Deploying the Legacy Martin Luther King, Jr.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Denver, April 2020.

* Accepted but not presented. Conference cancelled for COVID19

Panelist. “Cultural Identity, Collective Action, and Critical Data: Future Directions at the Intersection of Media Studies and Digital Humanities” with André Brock, Catherine Knight Steele, Kishonna Gray, Miriam Sweeney, Nikki Stevens, and Kevin Winstead. *American Studies Association.* November 2019.

“Support Ya Own: Independent Black Podcasting and Interstitial Modes of Production.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Seattle, March 2019.

“Black Technoculture as Digital Vanguard.” *Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black* (conference of the African American Digital Humanities project), University of Maryland, October 2018.

“‘On the Radio’: The Digital Life of African American Audio from Broadcasts to Podcasts” Roundtable participant. *Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black* (conference of the African American Digital Humanities project), University of Maryland, October 2018.

“Digital Critical Race Mixtape.” Experimental session participant. *AoIR 2018* (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), Montreal, October 2018.

“Dem Thrones: Enclaving and Cultural Resonance in Black *Game of Thrones* Fandoms.” *International Communication Association*, Prague, May 2018.

African American and Civil Rights Caucus Roundtable. Library of Congress Radio Preservation Task Force Conference, Washington D.C., November 2017.

“Racialized Users as Digital Vanguard.” *International Communication Association*, San Diego, May 2018.

“#EarnThisDamnVoteOrLose and #BernieSoBlack: Enclaving, Counter-discourse Production, and Gatekeeping in Black Digital Networks.” *AoIR 2016* (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), Berlin, October 2016.

“#DemThrones: Enclaving and Cultural Resonance in *Game of Thrones* Fan Practices.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, April 2016.

“Leveraging Digital Networks for Citizen Journalism: This Week in Blackness Reporting from Ferguson, MO.” *Internet Research 16.0* (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), October 2015.

“The Podcast Chitlin’ Circuit: Black Podcasters and Audio Enclaves.” *Race and Media Conference.* University of New Mexico, September 2015.

“Black Podcasters, Alternative Media, and Enclaved Social Spaces.” *International Communication Association*, May 2015.

“#YourSlipIsShowing: Aggressive Identity Tourism and Black Feminist Networks on Twitter.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, March 2015.

“Black Digital Networks and the Rejection of Respectability.” *Race and Media Conference.* University of Wisconsin Madison, October 2014.

“Networked Enclaves: Black Podcasters’ Responses to the George Zimmerman Verdict.” *Society for*

*Cinema and Media Studies,* March 2014.

**Panel Organizer**

Roundtable: “Disinformation and Global White Supremacy or Why the World’s Best Black Studies Program is at the Kremlin.” With Catherine Knight-Steele, Michael S. Daubs, and Kevin Winstead.

*AoIR 2022* (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), Dublin, November 2022.

“The Podcast “Chitlin’ Circuit”: Black Podcasters and Cultural Specificity.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*, Seattle, March 2019.

“Digital Critical Race Mixtape.” Experimental panel, *AoIR 2018* (Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers), Montreal, October 2018)

“Negotiating Race in Digital Spaces.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies.* Seattle, March 2014.

“Self-definition and Resistance in Black Digital Networks.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies.* Montreal, March 2015.

“NOT Seen on TV: Blackness, Television, and Participatory Digital Media Practices.” *Society for Cinema and Media Studies*. March/April 2016.

**Invited Scholar**

Atelier Technique Workshop, hosted by Marcel O’Gorman and the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, Spring 2022.

Design Studio: Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier, hosted by Katina Michael and the Lincoln Center for Applied Ethics, March 18, 2021

Digital Blackness in the Archive: A Documenting the Now Symposium, St. Louis, December 2017.

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Department of English, Arizona State University**

Graduate

* Authorship in Film and Media
* Media, Technology, Society
* Media Celebrity and Stardom
* Social Media, Society, and Culture
  + Met with FMS 494

Undergraduate Upper Division

* Media and Surveillance
* Emerging Digital Media
* TV, New Media, Culture
* Social Media, Society, and Culture
  + meets with CHD 598
* Social Media Entertainment

Undergraduate Lower Division

* Introduction to New Media

**Department of Communication and Theatre Arts, Old Dominion University (2014-2016)**

Graduate

* Social Change and Communication Systems
* Theory and Methods in the Humanities
* Topics: Race and Digital Media
* Digital Cultures
* Digital Communication Theory and Research
* Thesis and Non-Thesis Prep
* Interdisciplinarity of the Humanities: Theory and Practice

Undergraduate Upper Division

* Introduction to New Media Technologies
* Television and Society –

**Department of Communication Arts, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2012-2014)**

Undergraduate Upper Division/Graduate Level

* Special Topics in Media and Cultural Studies: Race and Digital Media
* Special Topics in Rhetorical Studies: Social Movements in the Digital Era

**Communications Program, Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus (2007-2008)**

Undergraduate Upper Division

* Media Theory Applied to Popular Music

Undergraduate Lower Division

* Mass Media and Contemporary Society
* Public Speaking

ONLINE COURSE DESIGN

**Lead Designer**

Undergraduate Upper Division

Emerging Digital Media (spring 2021)

* Modules contributed: “The History of ‘Emerging’ Media,” “Cultural Understandings of Emerging Technologies,” “Introduction to Data and Algorithms,” “Labor in the Age of Algorithms and AI”

Graduate

Media, Technology, Society (fall 2020)

* Modules contributed: “Medium Specificity,” “Media’s Impact on Social Structures,” “ The Social and Cultural Implications of Affordances,” “Affordances and User Behavior”

Digital Media Studies. Film and Media Studies (fall 2019)

* Modules contributed: “Blurring of Mass and Interpersonal Communication,” “Affordances,” “Algorithmic Culture,” “Data and Commercial Surveillance,” “

Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Media, in collaboration with Aviva Dove-Viebahn and Julia Himberg (fall 2019)

* Modules contributed: “Race,” “Representations of Blackness in the U.S.”

**Designed Modules**

Undergraduate Lower Division

Introduction to Film and Media Studies (spring 2022)

Film and Media History. “Early Communication Technology.” and “History of the Internet.” (spring 2022)

Graduate

Authorship in Film and the Media. “Digital Authorship.” (spring 2020)

Media Stardom and Celebrity. “The Demotic Turn: Reality TV to Online  Influencers” (spring 2020)

FMS 503 Media Industries. “Media Industries and the Internet.” (spring 2020)

SELECTED STUDENT MENTORING

**Department of English, Arizona State University**

Dissertation Committee Member

Olivia Rines, PhD Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, “Conceptualizing Toxicity in Women Twitch Streamers’ Communities.” spring 2021.

Briana Barnes, PhD Radio, Television, Film, “The Last Place They Thought Of: Black Podcasts and the Performance of Marginalization.” University of Texas-Austin, spring 2021.

External Examiner

Bryan Jenkins, PhD Communication, Culture and Media Studies, “Doing Black Podcast Studies: Exploring the Black Oral Tradition and Critical Media Literacy in Alternative Media.” Howard University, summer 2022.

Binwe Adebyo, MA in Journalism and Media Studies., “Exploring Socialities on Black Twitter: An Ethnographic Study of Everyday Concerns of South African Users in 2018 and 2019.” Rhodes University, South Africa, 2020.

MAS Applied Projects Chair

Emily Hedrick, MAS Film and Media Studies (fall 2017)

Independent Study

Ahsley Sims, MA of Liberal Studies – Digital Media Theory and Race (fall 2017)

Honors Thesis Committee

Jonathan Palmer. “Realities of Influencer Culture: A Case Study of Hannah Palmer.” (2022)

**Department of Communication and Theatre Arts, Old Dominion University (2014-2016)**

Thesis Committee member

Communication: Rachel Wenner. “Media Literacy: A Critical Discourse Analysis is the Definition of the Term.” (2016)

**Institute of Humanities, Old Dominion University (2014-2016)**

Thesis Committee member

Rachel Wenner. “Media Literacy Definitions.” MA of Lifespan and Digital Communications, Department of Communication & Theatre Arts (2016)

Zach Gehring. “We Can't Do It Without You!" Crowdfunding As Cultural and

Economic Negotiations Within Neoliberal Culture.” MA of Humanities (2016)

Project Advisor

Chris Mason. “Fan-nomenon: Bringing Together Star Wars Fans For The Good of the Galaxy.” (2014)

MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

Guest Appearance. “Undead Live! TIK,TOK, BOOM, BOOM.” Channel Zed. April 3, 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/@ChannelZed>

Interview. Aguilar, Melissa. “¿Cómo nos impactaría la prohibición de TikTok en EEUU?” Telemundo Arizona. March 20, 2023. <https://www.telemundoarizona.com/noticias/local/como-nos-impactaria-la-prohibicion-de-tiktok-en-eeuu/2298851/>

Shakur, Prince. “What the Sophia Rosing Case Reveals about Racism and the Viral Economy of Black Trauma.” *The Daily Dot*. December 12, 2022. <https://www.dailydot.com/irl/sophia-rosing-case/>

*Full Frontal with Samantha Bee.* Interviewed for background on Black Twitter segment. September 2019.

*Another View* hosted by Barbara Hamm Lee. 89.5 WHRV. Norfolk, VA. September 18, 2015. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CMOyyy8u3dU>

*Historical Blackness*, podcast live from NetRoots Nation conference, July 17, 2014.

*This Week in Blackness Radio*, podcast ep. 512. March 26, 2014.

*We Nerd Hard*, podcast ep. 71. March 25, 2014.

*Karamu Feast* hosted by Dr. Richard Cooper. 900AM WURD. Philadelphia. August 30, 2013.

*This Week In Blackness Radio*, podcast ep. 394. March 25, 2013.

SELECTED SERVICE

**Professional Service**

National Committees Library of Congress Preservation Task Force, African American and Civil Rights Caucus, 2016-present.

Review Committee, Association of Internet Researchers Conference, 2021.

Program Committee, Social Media and Society Conference, 2019 and 2020.

SCMS Black Caucus Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, 2020.

Program Committee, Association for Computing Machinery Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (2020).

Editorial Boards Journal of Sociotechnical Critique (2019-present)

Grant & Fellowship Reviewer NEH Fellowship Media Studies Panel (June 2021)

Invited Reviewer/Participant Book Manuscript workshop, *Distributed Blackness*, André Brock, University of Michigan, August 2017.

Book Referee Oxford University Press (2018), Rowman & Little Field (2018), Polity (2022)

Journal Article Referee *Communication, Culture, Critique* (2018-20), *Critical Studies in Media Communication* (2019), *DH Quarterly* (Black DH Special Issue, 2021), *First Monday* (2014), *International Journal of Cultural Studies* (2020), *Journal of Communication* (2017), *Journal of Electronic and Broadcast Media* (2016), *Journal of Sociotechnical Critique* (2019), New *Media and Society* (2015-20), *Popular Communication* (2018-19), *Public Culture* (2023), *Television and New Media* (2020), *Transformative Works and Cultures* (2023), Women’s *Studies in Communication* (2015-17)

Conference Paper Referee Association of Internet Researchers (2014, 2018, 2021-2023), “Intentionally Digital, Intentionally Black,” African American Digital Humanities Conference (2018), Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (ACM FAccT) (2021), HICSS Digital Methods Track (2021-2022)

Ethical Reviewer NeurIPS (Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems) 2021 and 2022.

**Departmental and University Service**

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

*University Service*

General Studies Committee, Literacy and Critical Inquiry Subcommittee, fall 2020-spring 2022

Graduate College Completion Fellowship reviewer, spring 2022

*Departmental Service*

Assessment Coordinator, Spring 21-present

“Chaucer Goes to the Movies.” Chaucer Celebration Video Competition Judge,

spring 2020 <https://english.asu.edu/chaucer-celebration>   
Newsletter Committee, Department of English, 2019-20

Night of the Open Door Committee, Department of English, 2017-18

*Area Service*

BA Online Course Revisions – fall 2021

MAS Course Revision and Development – spring 2020 and fall 2020

Search Committee, Assistant Professor, partner hire, spring 2020

Search Committee, Assistant Professor, Environmental Humanities and Media, spring 2020

Search Committee, Lecturer, FMS, fall 2019

Search Committee, Instructor, Game Studies, spring 2019

MAS Admission Committee, Film and Media Studies, 2018-present

Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA

Advisory Committee, Birth of an Answer, Institute of the Humanities, Fall 2015- Fall 2016

Moderator, Humanities Unbound Conference, Institute of the Humanities, Fall 2014