

Alyvia Walters, Ph.D.

Villanova University Department of Communication
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EDUCATION

- 2018-2024 **Ph.D. Communication, Information, and Media**
Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
Dissertation: *Child, Nation, and Emotion: Analyzing Children as Rhetorical Tools in Political Campaigns*
Advisors: Dr. Amy Jordan
 Dr. Chenjerai Kumanyika
- 2016-2018 **M.A. English**
Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Thesis: *Race, Language, and Performance: Rachel Jeantel, Testimonial Truth, and the George Zimmerman Trial*, passed with distinction
Advisors: Dr. Ricardo Ortiz
 Dr. Samantha Pinto
- 2011-2015 **B.A. English**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- 2011-2015 **B.S. Secondary English and Communications Education**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
- 2011-2015 **Minor: Special Education**
The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025-Present **Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor: Villanova University College of Liberal Arts & Sciences**
Department of Communication
- 2024-2025 **Postdoctoral Research Associate: Rutgers University School of Communication and Information**
Department of Library and Information Science
Funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) Grant; Principal Investigator Shagun Jhaver, Ph.D.

- 2021-2025 **Adjunct Instructor: Rutgers University School of Communication and Information**
Department of Journalism & Media Studies
Interdisciplinary Communication Studies
- 2019-2024 **Teaching Assistant: Rutgers University School of Communication and Information**
Department of Journalism & Media Studies
Interdisciplinary Communication Studies
- 2018 **Adjunct Instructor: Georgetown University College of Arts & Sciences**
Department of English
- 2016-2017 **Teaching Assistant: Georgetown University College of Arts & Sciences**
Department of English
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PUBLICATIONS

- Walters, A.** & Jhaver, S. (accepted with minor revision). Should the powerful be moderated? Examining social media users' perspectives on moderating politicians' inappropriate speech. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (PACM HCI) Journal*.
- Walters, A.**, Bal, K.*, & Jhaver, S. (submitted). How social media users conceptualize platforms' roles in online and offline civic community building. *New Media & Society*.
- Walters, A.**, Ammari, T., & Jhaver, S. (2025). Moral disengagement and content moderation attitudes: Examining how apathy to online harms may disguise racially conservative beliefs. *New Media & Society*, OnlineFirst. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448251385923>
- Walters, A.**, & Marchi, R. (2025). From local tragedy to national news: Twitter, anti-immigrant discourse, and the weaponization of public grief online. *Atlantic Journal of Communication*, 33(4), 627–643. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15456870.2025.2466556>
- Walters, A.**, Ammari, T., Garimella, K., & Jhaver, S. (2024). Online knowledge production in polarized political memes: The case of critical race theory. *New Media & Society*, 27(9). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241252591>

Walters, A. (2024). “These parents, themselves, are using these children as pawns”: The politicization of childhood at the U.S.-Mexico border. *International Journal of Communication*, 18. <https://communities.ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/20425>

Jordan, A., & **Walters, A.** (2022). Children and advertising policies in the U.S. and beyond. In Lemish, D. (ed.), *Routledge international handbook of children, adolescents, and media* (2nd ed., pp. 441-449). Routledge.

Katz, V., Jordan, A., **Walters, A.**, & Laliberte, L.* (2021). *Left to their own devices: How college students manage remote learning during the COVID19 pandemic & how faculty can improve it*. Medium. <https://medium.com/left-to-their-own-devices>

* indicates undergraduate student co-author

WORK IN PROGRESS

Hosamane, S.**, **Walters, A.**, Lyu, Y., Jhaver, S. (submitted). “I thought it was my mistake, but it’s really the design”: A critical examination of the accessibility of user-enacted moderation tools on Facebook and X. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*.

Walters, A. (in progress). Child-centered rhetoric in a polarized political field: The 2022 midterm elections as case study.

Ammari, T., **Walters, A.**, Senteio, C. (in progress). Beyond surveys: Examining racial and socioeconomic disparities in medical research engagement through conversational AI.

** indicates graduate student co-author

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Villanova University, *Department of Communication*

2025-Present **Instructor**, *Survey of Communication Studies*

8 undergraduate sections

in-person course delivery

Rutgers University, *Department of Journalism & Media Studies*

2023-24 **Instructor**, *Introduction to Media*

4 undergraduate sections

in-person, hybrid, and online course delivery

2022-25 **Instructor**, *Gender, Race, & Class in the Media*
 8 undergraduate sections
 in-person and online course delivery

2022 **Teaching Assistant**, *Writing for Media*

2021-22 **Instructor**, *Media Ethics & Law*
 2 undergraduate sections
 online course delivery

2020-21 **Teaching Assistant**, *Gender, Race, & Class in the Media*

2020 **Teaching Assistant**, *Critical Issues in Sports Media*

2019-20 **Teaching Assistant**, *Introduction to Media*

2019 **Teaching Assistant**, *Media & Democracy (study abroad course in Guatemala)*

Rutgers University, *Interdisciplinary Communication Studies*

2022-24 **Teaching Assistant**, *Leadership in Digital Contexts*

2021-22 **Instructor**, *Leadership in Digital Contexts*
 4 undergraduate sections
 hybrid course delivery

Georgetown University, *Department of English*

2018 **Instructor**, *Writing & Culture*
 1 undergraduate section
 in-person course delivery

2016-17 **Teaching Assistant**, *Writing & Culture*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Walters, A.** (2025, August 7-10). *Award panel session: "Win the future for all of our children!"*: *Child-Centered rhetoric in the 2022 Senate midterm campaigns*. [Panel presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) 2025 Convention, San Francisco, CA, United States.
- 2024 Natarajan, N., **Walters, A.**, & Weinstein, C. (2024, October 18-20). *Beyond the plagiarism/honesty binary in the classroom: Perspectives from student-instructors at the Rutgers School of Communication and Information*. [Panel presentation]. New York State Communication Association 2024 Convention, Callicoon, NY, United States.
- 2024 **Walters, A.** (2024, August 8-11). *"I'm Sick of woke indoctrination masquerading as education"*: *Race-Based "indoctrination" in education as Republican campaign strategy*. [Poster presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) 2024 Convention, Philadelphia, PA, United States.

- 2024 **Walters, A.** (2024, June 6-9). *From parental rights to progressive indoctrination: Conservative child-saving as a tool of white nationalism in the 2022 Senate campaigns*. [Conference presentation]. Visions of Racial Justice and Childhood: Inequalities, Identities, Politics, Relationalities and Representations, Camden, NJ, United States.
- 2023 **Walters, A.** (2023, June 1-4). *Constructing K-12 schools as sites of fear and oppression: An investigation of childhood, politics, and nation-building on the political right*. [Conference presentation]. Cultural Studies Association (CSA) 2023 Convention, Fairfax, VA, United States.
- 2023 **Walters, A.** (2023, May 25-29). *Analyzing the deployment of child-centered imagery in political campaigns: An investigation of childhood, politics, and nation-building* [Conference escalator session]. International Communication Association (ICA) 2023 Convention, Toronto, ON, Canada.
- 2022 **Walters, A. & Marchi, R.** (2022, November 17-20). *From local tragedy to national news: Twitter, anti-immigrant discourse, and the politicization of public mourning online* [Conference presentation]. National Communication Association (NCA) 2022 Convention, New Orleans, LA, United States.
- 2022 **Walters, A.** (2022, June 2-4). *“Think of the children” and other tales: Child-Centered care as moralizing claim to American exceptionalism* [Conference presentation]. Cultural Studies Association (CSA) 2022 Convention, Chicago, IL, United States.
- 2021 **Walters, A.** (2021, October 7-9). *Childhood and youth studies caucus: Shaping and reshaping colonized, racialized, and criminalized childhoods* [Discussion panel]. American Studies Association (ASA) 2021 Convention, Virtual meeting.
- 2021 **Walters, A.** (2021, June 10-12). *“These parents, themselves, are using these children as pawns”: The politicization of childhood at the U.S.-Mexico border* [Conference presentation]. Cultural Studies Association (CSA) 2021 Convention, Virtual meeting.
- 2021 **Walters, A.** (2021, May 27-31). *The “trace” of Black maternal grief: Theorizing the photojournalistic coverage of Black maternal grief through Michael Brown’s mother* [Conference presentation]. International Communication Association (ICA) 2021 Convention, Virtual meeting.
- 2020 **Walters, A.** (2020, August 6-9). *Modern mourning: The violence and potentialities of public grief online* [Conference presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) 2020 Convention, Virtual meeting.

- 2020 **Walters, A.** (2020). *Listening to family separation: News, sound, and childhood at the U.S.-Mexico border* [Conference presentation]. Cultural Studies Association (CSA) 2020 Convention, Virtual Meeting, *Presentation Cancelled Due to COVID-19*.
- 2019 **Walters, A.** (2019, March 7-9). *Public rhetorics of childhood: Mediated constructions of youth and innocence along the U.S. color line* [Conference presentation]. American Anthropology Association (AAA): Anthropology of Children and Youth Interest Group (ACYIG) 2019 Convention, Camden, NJ, United States.
- 2019 **Walters, A.** (2019, March 1-2). *Modernizing grief: The violence and potentialities of public grieving after politicized tragedy* [Conference presentation]. Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) 2019 Midwinter Conference, Norman, OK, United States.
- 2017 **Walters, A.** (2017, September). *Talk about talk: Metadiscursive media coverage of the George Zimmerman trial* [Conference presentation]. English Consortium Conference, Washington D.C., United States.
- 2017 **Walters, A.** (2017, April 29). *Breaking the silence: Productive politics in English classrooms* [Poster presentation]. Professional Development School Teacher Inquiry Conference 2017, State College, PA, United States.
- 2017 **Walters, A.** (2017, April). *Legitimizing Clare Kendry: Anti-Anti-Normativity and desire in Nella Larsen's Passing* [Conference presentation]. Georgetown English Graduate Student Association Conference, Washington, D.C., United States.
- 2015 **Walters, A.** (2015, May). *Contracting ownership: Shifting student perspectives of writing* [Conference presentation]. Professional Development School Teacher Inquiry Conference 2015, State College, PA, United States.

GUEST LECTURES

- 2020-24 *Media Theory*, Introduction to Media, Prof. Steven Miller, Rutgers University: Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, Spring 2020
- 2021 *Racialization of Latinx in Media*, Gender, Race, & Class in the Media, Prof. Regina Marchi, Rutgers University: Spring 2021
- 2020 *Racism, Sexism, and Homophobia in Sports*, Critical Issues in Sports Media, Prof. Steven Miller, Rutgers University: Fall 2020

RESEARCH INVOLVEMENT

Rutgers University

- 2025 **Research Assistant:** assistant to Dr. Charles Senteio on publication of his book project, qualitative coding of participant/chatbot conversations integrated in a survey on race & medical research
- 2024-25 **Research Assistant:** assistant to Dr. Melissa Aronczyk on publication of her book project, contributed journalistic work in investigating history of environmental public relations
- 2023-24 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant in Rutgers' Social Computing Lab, qualitative coding and analysis of memes on Critical Race Theory
- 2022 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant to Dr. Dafna Lemish on publication of her edited collection on children, adolescents, and media
- 2021 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant to Drs. Itzhak Yanovitsky and Matthew Weber's Active Surveillance of Policy Ecosystems and Networks (ASPEN) Project, qualitatively coded news and website data which cited research on youth suicide and prevention in New Jersey
- 2020 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant to Drs. Amy Jordan and Vikki Katz, analyzed over 5,000 qualitative survey data points on holistic impacts of COVID-19 on undergraduate students worldwide
- 2019 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant to Dr. Khadijah White, performed copyediting duties on manuscripts and preliminary research on the corporatization of social movements
- 2019 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant to Dr. Amy Jordan, gathered data on children's educational and informational television programming available on broadcast media

Georgetown University

- 2018 **Graduate Research Assistant:** assistant to Dr. Eva Rosen, copyedited and conducted research as needed for her book project on housing vouchers in Baltimore

LABS & WORKING GROUPS

- 2023-25 **Member:** Computational Social Science Lab, Rutgers University
- 2020-25 **Member:** Power & Inequality in Media and Technology Working Group, Rutgers University

2021 **Member:** Active Surveillance of Policy Ecosystems and Networks (ASPEN) Lab, Rutgers University

SERVICE

2025 **Reviewer** for *New Media & Society* Journal
2025 Aresty Summer Science Fellows Undergraduate Research **Mentor**, Rutgers University
2024-25 WebSci Conference Program **Committeeperson**
2024 **Reviewer** for *Cyberpsychology* journal
2024 Rutgers First-Year Interest Group Seminars (FIGS) Faculty **Mentor**
2023-2025 **Reviewer** for the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference (AEJMC)
2021-24 **Mentor** of PhD Teaching Assistants, Rutgers University
2023 **Reviewer** for the Association for Computing Machinery Computer-Human Interaction Conference (ACM CHI)
2022-23 **Reviewer** for the International Communication Association Conference (ICA)
2022-23 Undergraduate Research **Mentor**, Rutgers University
2019-23 PhD Peer **Mentor**, Rutgers University
2019-23 **Student volunteer** for doctoral program recruitment events, Rutgers University
2019-20 Doctoral Student Association **Treasurer**, Rutgers University
2017-18 Community Scholars Program Academic Director **Search Committee Member**, Georgetown University
2017-18 English Graduate Student Association **Treasurer**, Georgetown University

HONORS & AWARDS

2025 **Nafziger-White-Salwen Dissertation Award Runner-Up**, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)
2024 **Outstanding Doctoral Student in Interdisciplinary Studies: 2023-2024**, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information
2021 **Eagleton Institute of Politics Governor's Executive Award**, Eagleton Institute of Politics
2021 **Outstanding Doctoral Teaching Assistant in Media Studies: 2020-2021**, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information
2020 **AEJMC Critical and Cultural Studies Division Top Student Paper 2020 Runner-Up**, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)

2019 **Continuing Doctoral Student of the Year in Media Studies:** 2018-2019, Rutgers University School of Communication and Information

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

2018, 2023 **Department of Journalism and Media Studies Ph.D. Fellowship,** Rutgers University School of Communication and Information

2022 **Dissertation Research Grant,** Rutgers University School of Communication and Information

2022 **National Communication Association Travel Grant** 2022, National Communication Association

2022 **Cultural Studies Association Travel Grant** 2022, Cultural Studies Association

2021 **Eagleton Institute of Politics Graduate Fellowship,** Eagleton Institute of Politics

2018-23 **Graduate Student Travel Grant,** Rutgers University School of Communication and Information

2016, 17 **Community Scholars Program Fellowship,** Georgetown University Center for Multicultural Equity and Access

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023-24 **Ph.D. Program Assistant,** Rutgers University School of Communication & Information

2021 New Jersey State Government Office of New Americans **Fellow,** Department of Human Services, Trenton, NJ

2018 Department of State Office of Curation **Intern,** United States Department of State, Washington, DC

2017-18 Center for Multicultural Equity and Access **Program Assistant,** Georgetown University, Washington, DC

2016-18 **Substitute Teacher,** DC Public School System, Washington, DC

2016-18 **Substitute Teacher,** Arlington Public Schools, Arlington, VA

2015-16 High School English **Teacher,** Central Dauphin High School, Harrisburg, PA

2014-15 Professional Development School **Teaching Intern,** State College Area High School, State College, PA

2013-14 Summer **Teaching Intern,** Central Dauphin School District, Harrisburg, PA

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & OUTREACH

2024-Present **Grant Writer**, Homies Helping Homies, Philadelphia, PA
2024-Present **Member**, CHEER Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA
2024-Present **Volunteer**, South Philadelphia Community Fridge, Philadelphia, PA
2017-18 Golden Rule High School Tutoring Program **Founder**, Golden Rule Affordable Housing Complex, Washington, DC

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC)
Cultural Studies Association (CSA)
International Communication Association (ICA)
National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE)
National Communication Association (NCA)

CERTIFICATIONS

2015 Pennsylvania Teaching Certification: Communications, Instructional I; Grades 7-12
2015 Pennsylvania Teaching Certification: English, Instructional I; Grades 7-12

REFERENCES

Amy Jordan, Distinguished Professor
Rutgers University, Department of Journalism and Media Studies
4 Huntington Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
a.jordan@rutgers.edu

Shagun Jhaver, Assistant Professor
Rutgers University, Department of Library and Information Science
4 Huntington Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
sj917@comminfo.rutgers.edu

Regina Marchi, Professor
Rutgers University, Department of Journalism and Media Studies
4 Huntington Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
rmarchi@rutgers.edu