



PRESS RELEASE

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GERRY LANOSGA WINS 2023 *AMERICAN JOURNALISM* BEST ARTICLE AWARD

The American Journalism Historians Association awarded Gerry Lanosga, an associate professor and director of journalism at the Indiana University (Bloomington) Media School, the 2023 *American Journalism* best article award.

The 2023 award honors the best scholarship published in *American Journalism*, the peer-reviewed journal of AJHA, between Summer 2022 and Spring 2023. Lanosga's article, "Behold the Wicked Abominations That They Do': The Nineteenth-Century Roots of the Evidentiary Approach in American Investigative Journalism," was published in the Fall 2022 issue of *American Journalism*.

The judges commented that the article achieved "a fine job of exploring and describing, with primary sources, the roots of investigative journalism as moral suasion before muckraking. It is both a thoughtful and thought-provoking article; by extending the historical context of investigative journalism back to the abolitionist movement, the article asks the reader to consider the nexus of emotional appeal/propaganda, investigative journalism, and political advocacy. In this sense, it raises important (almost foundational) issues about the purpose of journalism that echo across time to present debates."

Lanosga responded, "I'm really thrilled to win this award, especially since there were – as always – so many great works of scholarship published in *American Journalism* in the last year. I've been thinking about abolitionist exposés since I was in grad school, so I was happy just to get this piece accepted. The award is icing on the cake, and I am truly thankful to the editors for this recognition."

Pamela E. Walck, editor of *American Journalism*, acknowledged the challenge of selecting a winner. "Every year, it is difficult to select which scholars to nominate for the Best Article Award that *American Journalism* awards. This speaks volumes about the quality of the research submitted by the scholars in our field." She also noted it demonstrates the significance of the research AJHA scholars explore and publish each year.

"This year's winning entry by Dr. Lanosga is a wonderful example of how looking at a topic, such as the long history of investigative reporting techniques in the U.S. press, can bring forth new ideas about the nature and origins of important news routines," Walck said. "The fact that his piece was part of a special Fall 2022 issue that examined investigative reporting in light of the 50th anniversary of Watergate was an added bonus."

Lanosga will receive his award during the 42nd annual AJHA Convention scheduled for Sept. 28–30 in Columbus, Ohio.

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Founded in 1981, the American Journalism Historians Association seeks to advance education and research in mass communication history. Members work to raise historical standards and ensure that all scholars and students recognize the vast importance of media history and apply this knowledge to the advancement of society. For more information on AJHA, visit <http://www.ajhaonline.org>.

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