

**PRESS RELEASE**

January 18, 2024

For Immediate Release

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AMBER ROESSNER, RACHEL GRANT NAMED NEW EDITOR AND ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF *AMERICAN JOURNALISM*

The American Journalism Historian Association announced the selection of Amber Roessner as the incoming editor of its flagship publication, *American Journalism*. Roessner, a professor in the University of Tennessee's School of Journalism & Electronic Media, was recommended by the AJHA Publications Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

"It is a true honor to serve as the next editor of *American Journalism*, a journal that has made significant impact on our field since 1983," Roessner said. "I hope to continue in the tradition of past editors, such as William David Sloan, John Pauly, Wally Eberhard, Karla Gower, Jim Martin, Barbara Friedman, Ford Risley, and Pamela Walck, leaders in our field, who have shaped and been shaped by our work. I am humbled by this opportunity and promise to continue giving my heart to this organization and our scholarship in this new role."

Roessner is the author of two books, *Jimmy Carter and the Birth of the Marathon Media Campaign* (Louisiana State University Press) and *Inventing Baseball Heroes: Ty Cobb, Christy Mathewson and the Sporting Press in America* (LSU Press), and the co-editor of *Political Pioneer of the Press: Ida B. Wells-Barnett and Her Transnational Crusade for Social Justice* (Lexington Books). She has published articles in *American Journalism*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, and *Journalism History*, among others. She won the 2021 AEJMC History Division's Covert Award honoring the best mass communication history article published in the previous year for her 2020 *Journalism History* manuscript, "The Voices of Public Opinion: Lingering Structures of Feeling about Women's Suffrage in 1917 U.S. Newspaper Letters to the Editor."

An AJHA member since 2006, Roessner is serving her second term on the Board of Directors. She previously has chaired the Nominations and Elections Committee, and has served on the Book Award Committee, the Blanchard Dissertation Prize Committee, and as chair of the Graduate Student Committee.

A former prize-winning sportswriter for the *Gainesville Times*, Roessner also worked as an associate editor of the *Athens Magazine*, editor of *Gainesville Life*, and as a freelance contractor for regional media organizations and non-profit organizations. She earned her Ph.D. in mass communications at the University of Georgia's College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"The Publications Committee was impressed by Amber's scholarship and her service to AJHA over the years," said committee chair Ford Risley. "We are confident she will be an outstanding editor of *American Journalism*."

Since her appointment, Roessner has been working with the outgoing editor, Pamela E. Walck, on transitioning into the editorship. She will begin an apprenticeship during the summer of 2024 and will officially take over as editor with publication of the Winter 2025 issue.

"I hope to encourage a continued legacy of excellence by promoting many of the existing initiatives unveiled by recent editors, including the impactful essay series and teaching the journal initiative established by Friedman and then-associate editor Kathy Roberts Forde and the digital media reviews and conversations adopted by the existing editorial staff, under Walck's leadership, while encouraging a diversity of voices and scholarship," Roessner said.

Roessner will continue to work with editorial staff members assembled during Walck's tenure. Lisa Bolz, an associate professor at Sorbonne University's CELSA in France, serves as the digital media review editor, and Jason Guthrie, an assistant professor of communication and media studies at Clayton State University, currently serves as interim book review editor. Rachel Grant, an assistant professor at the University of Florida, will succeed Nicholas Hirshon, an assistant professor of communication at William Paterson University, at the end of his term as associate editor in December 2024.

"I am honored and excited to be the next associate editor," Grant said. "The journal and its research are extremely valuable in expanding our knowledge in mass media history. I am ready to work with its new editor Amber Roessner and continue the work done by many in AJHA."

Grant's research focuses on media studies of race, gender and class. She has conducted extensive research on media activism, historical and contemporary social movements, such the Civil Rights Movement, the Black Power movement, and #BlackLivesMatter. Her work has been published in *American Journalism*, *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, and *Visual Communication Quarterly*, among others.

Roessner will reach out to leaders in the field of journalism history to step into any roles that become vacant.

"In the meantime, I am so thrilled to continue learning from my peers in this role and for the opportunity to work with existing editorial staff and Rachel Grant in her new role as associate editor, and I hope to continue to elevate the journal and to amplify our community's voices," Roessner said.

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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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