

## PAST PRIZE WINNERS

- 1997: Julie Hedgpeth Williams, "The Significance of the Printed Word in Early America"; Director: David Sloan, University of Alabama
- 1998: David R. Davies, "An Industry in Transition: Major Trends in American Daily Newspapers, 1945-1965"; Director: David Sloan, University of Alabama
- 1999: Nora Hall, "On Being an African-American Woman: Gender and Race in the Writings of Six Black Women Journalists, 1849-1936"; Director: Hazel Dicken-Garcia, University of Minnesota
- 2000: Dale Zacher, "Editorial Policy of the Scripps Newspapers During World War I"; Director: Patrick S. Washburn, Ohio University
- 2001: Aleen J. Ratzlaff, "Black Press Pioneers in Kansas: Connecting and Extending Communities in Three Geographic Sections, 1878-1900"; Director: Bernell E. Tripp, University of Florida
- 2002: Marc Edge, "Pacific Press: Vancouver's Newspaper Monopoly, 1957-1991"; Director: Patrick S. Washburn, Ohio University
- 2003: Mark Feldstein, "Watergate's Forgotten Investigative Reporter: The Battle Between Columnist Jack Anderson and President Richard Nixon"; Director: Margaret A. Blanchard, University of North Carolina
- 2004: Guy Reel, "The Wicked World: The National Police Gazette, Richard K. Fox, and the Making of the Modern American Man, 1879-1906"; Director: Patrick S. Washburn, Ohio University
- 2005: Pete Smith, "'It's Your America': Gertrude Berg and American Broadcasting, 1929-1956"; Director: Arthur J. Kaul, University of Southern Mississippi
- 2006: Stacy Spaulding, "Lisa Sergio: How Mussolini's 'Golden Voice' of Propaganda Created an American Mass Communication Career"; Director: Maurine Beasley, University of Maryland
- 2007: Michael Stamm, "Mixed Media: Newspaper Ownership of Radio in American Politics and Culture, 1920-1952"; Director: Neil Harris, University of Chicago
- 2008: Noah Arceneaux, "Department Stores and the Origins of American Broadcasting, 1910-1931"; Director: Jay Hamilton, University of Georgia
- 2009: Richard K. Popp, "Magazines, Marketing and the Construction of Travel in the Postwar United States"; Director: Carolyn Kitch, Temple University
- 2010: J. Duane Meeke, "From the Belly of the HUAC: The Red Probes of Hollywood, 1947-1952"; Director: Maurine H. Beasley, University of Maryland
- 2011: Ira Chinoy, "Battle of the Brains: Election-Night Forecasting at the Dawn of the Computer Age"; Director: Maurine H. Beasley, University of Maryland
- 2012: Brian Dolber, "Sweating for Democracy: Working Class Media and the Struggle for Hegemonic Jewishness, 1919-1941"; Director: Robert W. McChesney, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2013: Melita Marie Garza, "They Came to Toil: News Frames of Wanted and Unwanted Mexicans in the Great Depression"; Director: Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2014: Beth Kaszuba, "'Mob Sisters': Women Reporting on Crime in Prohibition Era Chicago"; Director: Ford Risley, Pennsylvania State University
- 2015: Carrie Teresa, "Looking at the Stars: The Black Press, African American Celebrity Culture, and Critical Citizenship in Early Twentieth Century America, 1895-1935"; Director: Carolyn Kitch, Temple University
- 2016: Vanessa Freije, "Journalists, Scandal, and the Unraveling of One-Party Rule in Mexico, 1960-1988"; Director: Jocelyn Olcott, Duke University

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## 2017 MARGARET A. BLANCHARD DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE



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The AJHA Margaret A. Blanchard Doctoral Dissertation Prize, established in 1997 and named in 2003, is awarded annually for the best doctoral dissertation on media history. Named in honor of the late Professor Margaret A. Blanchard of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill — superb scholar and the source of guidance and inspiration for generations of doctoral students of journalism history — the prize is accompanied by an honorarium of five hundred dollars. A two-hundred-dollar honorarium is awarded to each honorable mention.

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# AMERICAN JOURNALISM HISTORIANS ASSOCIATION

## 2017 MARGARET A. BLANCHARD

### DOCTORAL DISSERTATION PRIZE

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#### PRIZE WINNER

Matthew Pressman, “Remaking the News: The Transformation of American Journalism, 1960- 1980.” Director: Dr. Bruce J. Schulman Boston University

#### HONORABLE MENTION AWARDEES

Lorraine Ahearn, “Narrative Paths of Native American Resistance: Agency and Commemoration in Journalism Texts in Eastern North Carolina, 1872-1988.”  
Director: Dr. Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina.

Denise Hill, “Public Relations, Racial Injustice, and the 1958 North Carolina Kissing Case.”  
Director: Dr. Barbara Friedman, University of North Carolina.

Rianne Subijanto, “Media of Resistance: A Communication History of Anti-Colonial Movements in the Dutch East Indies, 1920-1926.”  
Director: Dr. Janice Peck, University of Colorado

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#### ABSTRACTS

**Matthew Pressman, “Remaking the News: The Transformation of American Journalism, 1960- 1980.”** Most Americans, whether consciously or unconsciously, associate certain defining traits with the contemporary American press: a broad definition of news, an emphasis on analysis, a skeptical tone, and adherence to a specific definition of objectivity. None of these elements characterized American newspapers in 1960, but all were firmly in place by 1980. *Remaking the News* examines how that remarkable transformation occurred, and how it influenced politics and society. While focusing mainly on two newspapers—*The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*—it attempts to analyze the media business as a whole.

**Lorraine Ahearn, “Narrative Paths of Native American Resistance: Agency and Commemoration in Journalism Texts in Eastern North Carolina, 1872-1988.”** This dissertation is concerned with a particular mechanism in the performance of identity: self-representation in mass media. Four historical markers of Indian identity in the century under examination all involve Native American resistance to white supremacy, and in each instance, media played an operative role in portraying common themes that linked these historical eras, suggesting that intertextuality recirculates narratives back to the community, and that journalism itself becomes a formation of memory. The purpose here is to gain insight into agency and the process of transculturation as it applies to self-representation. A fundamental assumption is that journalism is a narrative form, seeking to impose structure on the chaos of reality. A parallel premise is the notion of cultural scripts, continuous templates that imbue the Native American landscape of the present with felt attachments to the past. The question this research poses is how a racial isolate appropriated and subverted journalism narratives for the purpose of autonomy and as sites of memory.

**Denise Hill, “Public Relations, Racial Injustice, and the 1958 North Carolina Kissing Case.”** This dissertation examines how public relations was used by the Committee to Combat Racial Injustice (CCRI), the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), North Carolina Governor Luther Hodges, and the United States Information Agency (USIA) in regards to the 1958 kissing case. The kissing case occurred in Monroe, North Carolina when a group of children were playing, including two African American boys, age nine and eight, and a seven-year-old white girl. During the game, the nine-year-old boy and the girl exchanged a kiss. As a result, the police later arrested both boys and charged them with assaulting and molesting the girl. They were sentenced to a reformatory, with possible release for good behavior at age 21. The CCRI launched a public relations campaign to gain the boys’ freedom, and the NAACP implemented public relations tactics on the boys’ behalf. News of the kissing case spread overseas, drawing unwanted international attention to US racial problems at a time when the country was promoting worldwide democracy. In response, Gov. Hodges launched a public relations campaign to defend the actions of North Carolina authorities, and the USIA employed public relations tactics to manage the country’s reputation overseas. This dissertation analyzes the public relations campaigns of the CCRI and Gov. Hodges, focusing on public relations strategies and tactics, as well as public relations outputs and public relations outcomes. This dissertation also analyzes the public relations tactics implemented by the NAACP and USIA.

**Rianne Subijanto, “Media of Resistance: A Communication History of Anti-Colonial Movements in the Dutch East Indies, 1920-1926.”** This dissertation is a communication history of the early communist anti-colonial movement in the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) in 1920-1926. While for three centuries struggles against Dutch imperialism had been sporadic, local, and traditional in character, in this period people organized themselves for the first time in a radical, national, and global revolutionary movement. Rather than resort to weapons and warfare, the resistance movement developed collective actions around new emerging communicative technologies and practices—“media of resistance”—that included schools, public debates, popular journalism, arts, and literature. The dissertation examines the processes by which ordinary people produced these media of resistance as a new way of organizing and mobilizing. The aim is twofold: first, to reveal the centrality of communicative sociotechnical systems (practices, processes, and technologies) in the emergence, development, success, and demise of a social movement; and, second, to highlight the roles of ordinary people in that process, a focus hidden in the previous historiography due to leader-, party-, and formal event-centered narratives.