

# Kathryn Claire Higgins

## Curriculum Vitae

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania  
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### APPOINTMENTS

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2022 Annenberg School for Communication, **University of Pennsylvania**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
*Primary Affiliation:* Annenberg Center for Collaborative Communication  
*Secondary Affiliations:* Annenberg Center for Media at Risk; Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication (CARGC).

### EDUCATION

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2022 PhD in Media and Communications, **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**  
*Dissertation:* Realness, Wrongness, Justice: Exploring Criminalization as a Mediated Politics of Vulnerability  
*Committee:* Lilie Chouliaraki (primary advisor), Robin Mansell (secondary advisor), Nick Couldry (chair)  
*Examiners:* Alyson Cole, Mary Angela Bock

2015 MSc in Media and Communications, **London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)**  
*Silverstone Dissertation for Media ad Ethics (2015)*  
*Best Overall MSc Performance Prize (2015)*

2013 BA International Studies, **RMIT University** (Melbourne, Australia)

### AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

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2022 Top Student Paper Award, ICA (Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division)  
2022 LSE Postgraduate Travel Grant | £612.00  
2021 Top Student Paper Award, ICA (Visual Communication Studies Division)  
2021 LSE Postgraduate Travel Grant | £105.00  
2020 LSESU Innovative Teaching Award (Nominated)  
2020 LSESU Inspiring Teaching Award (Nominated)  
2019 LSE Changemakers Grant (with Ram Bhat & Richard Stupart)  
2019 Class Teacher Award, LSE Department of Sociology  
2019 LSE Postgraduate Travel Grant | £449.00  
2017 PhD Studentship Recipient, London School of Economics | £81,000 + full tuition  
2015 Silverstone Dissertation Prize for Media and Ethics  
2015 LSE Best Overall MSc Performance Prize, Media and Communications

PUBLICATIONS (\*designates equal authorship)

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BOOKS

*In Preparation*     **Higgins, K.C.** *Victimcould: Vulnerability Politics, Media, and the Imaginary Future*

2023             Banet-Weiser, S. & **Higgins, K.C.\*** *Believability: Sexual Violence, Media, and the Politics of Doubt*. Polity Press (April 2023)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2022             **Higgins, K.C.** 'Rethinking visual criminalization: news images and the mediated spacetime of crime events', *Visual Communication*, [online first](#).  
*2021 Top Student Paper Award, ICA Visual Communication Studies Division*

2022             Banet-Weiser, S. & **Higgins, K.C.\*** 'Television and the 'honest' woman: Mediating the labor of believability', *Television and New Media*, 23(2), 127-147, [read here](#).

2022             **Higgins, K.C.** 'Nobody feels safe: vulnerability, fear, and the micro-politics of ordinary voice in crime news television', *Journalism*, 23(10), 2114-2131, [read here](#).

2021             Orgad, S. & **Higgins, K.C.** 'Sensing the (in)visible: domestic cleaning and cleaners on Mumsnet Talk'. *Feminist Media Studies*, [online first](#).

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES (FORTHCOMING)

2024             Banet-Weiser, S. & **Higgins, K.C.\*** 'Liars, scammers, and cheats: con(fident) women and post-authentic femininities on television.' *Journal of Gender Studies* special issue on 'Twenty-First Century Femininity and Masculinity in Media and Popular Culture' (L. Tsaliki and S. Redmond).

BOOK CHAPTERS (FORTHCOMING)

2023             **Higgins, K.C.** 'Cruel benevolence: vulnerable menaces, menacing vulnerabilities, and the white male vigilante trope.' Forthcoming in the *Routledge Companion to Gender, Media and Violence* (K. Boyle and S. Berridge).

2023             Banet-Weiser, S. & **Higgins, K.C.\*** 'The Post-Truth of Rape.' Forthcoming in *Popular Truth and Consequences: Critical Approaches to Post-Truth Crises* (J. Harsin).

JOURNAL ARTICLES IN PREPARATION

1                     Beyond copaganda: criminalization in the (mediated) security imaginary  
*2022 Top Student Paper, ICA Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division*

2                     The guts of a culture war: how vulnerability politics is semiotized in/through media representations

## REPORTS

- 2019 Bhat, R., **Higgins, K.C.** & Stupart, R.\* 'Exploring Decolonial Praxis at the LSE', LSE Change-Makers 2018-2019, [summary report available here](#).
- 2012 Toome, E., Grenfell, D. & **Higgins, K.C.** 'Local Perspectives on Political Decision-Making in Timor-Leste: A Short Report on the 2007 Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Dili and Venilale', Globalism Research Centre. RMIT University, [report available here](#).

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP (WRITING)

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[Believability](#) (with Sarah Banet-Weiser, Polity Books Blog, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023)

[What does it mean \(and take\) to #BelieveWomen?](#) (Media@LSE Blog, 2021)

[Dissent and Democracy in Covid-19](#) (with Sebastián Lehuedé and Kirill Filimonov, Progressive International, 2020)

[Why police violence is a media problem](#) (Media@LSE Blog, 2020)

[Above and beyond? Rethinking our criteria for teaching excellence](#) (Contemporary Issues in Teaching and Learning, 2019)

[We need to disentangle merit from mental health](#) (Contemporary Issues in Teaching and Learning, 2019)

[Mediated Intimacy: Sex Advice in Media Culture](#) by Meg-John Barker, Ros Gill, and Laura Harvey (book review, International Journal of Communication, 13(1), p. 5042-5045)

[Imagining \(In\)security: Towards Developing Critical Knowledges of Security in a Mediated Social World](#) (Media@LSE Dissertation Series, 2015)

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP (INTERVIEWS, EVENTS, AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT)

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[#MeToo and the Media: Survivors, Believability, and Emotional Labor](#)' (LSE Festival 2023: People and Power; 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023)

[Why are we so intrigued by stories about female con artists?](#) (LSE Instagram TV, 264,000 followers, featured expert, released 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022)

[The Female Con Artist](#)' (BBC Radio 4, *BBC Woman's Hour*, invited guest, aired 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022)

[Is the activist economy good for social change?](#)' (Al Jazeera English, *The Stream*, invited discussant, aired 14<sup>th</sup> October 2021).

## SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

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- Upcoming* 'Who's afraid of trial by media? Believability, sexual violence, and the digitization of doubt' (with Sarah-Banet-Weiser)  
Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Television, Video, Audio, New Media, and Feminism  
University of Calgary (June 2023)
- Upcoming:* 'Believability, sexual violence, and the digitization of doubt' (with Sarah Banet-Weiser)  
Media Futures: the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference of the Department of Media and Communications at the London School of Economics and Political Science (June 2023)
- Upcoming* 'The post-truth of rape' (with Sarah Banet-Weiser)  
International Communication Association Conference (Toronto, 2023); Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division
- Upcoming* 'Grind and grift: gender, con(fidence), and post-authenticity in academic labor' (with Sarah Banet-Weiser)  
International Communication Association Conference (Toronto, 2023); Feminist Scholarship Division
- 2022 'Rethinking cultural criminalization: from the 'construction of criminality' to the mediated security imaginary'  
International Communication Association Conference (Paris, France); Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division  
*2022 Top Student Paper Award Winner*
- 2022 'Victimcould: whiteness, woundedness, and the prospective politics of fear'  
International Communication Association Conference (Paris, France); Feminist Scholarship Division
- 2022 '#MeToo, post-truth, and the politics of doubt'  
Invited Talk, American University in Paris (Paris, France)
- 2021 'Through the kaleidoscope: news images, vantage points, and the mediated spacetime of crime events'  
International Communication Association Conference (Virtual); Visual Communication Studies Division  
*2021 Top Student Paper Award Winner*
- 2020 'Debunking fear: ordinary voice and ordinary critique in the mediation of crime and policing'  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Lisbon Winter School (Lisbon, Portugal)
- 2019 'Power to pronounce: multivocality and contestation in television news representations of crime and policing in Australia'  
International Association of Media and Communication Researchers Conference (Madrid, Spain); Crisis, Security and Conflict Working Group
- 2019 'Populist (in)security: Hierarchies of voice in current affairs television accounts of Melbourne's "African gang crisis'

## TEACHING

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At the University of Pennsylvania:

Undergraduate Thesis Program, Communication and Public Service (ComPS)  
*Faculty Advisor (2022-2023)*

At the London School of Economics:

Advanced Social Theory, Department of Sociology  
*GTA Seminar Teacher (2019-2020; 2018-2019)*

Critical Approaches to Media, Communication and Development, Department of Media and  
Communications  
*Classroom Assistant (2020-2021; 2019-2020; 2018-2019)*

Political Communication and Campaigning, Department of Media and Communications  
*Classroom Assistant (2020-2021)*

Data in Communication and Society, Department of Media and Communications  
*Classroom Assistant (2018-2019)*

Representation in the Age of Globalization, Department of Media and Communications  
*Classroom Assistant (2018-2019)*

## SUPERVISION AND ADVISING

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2023 Tara Shilkret  
Faculty Supervisor, Undergraduate Thesis  
*The Child Care Connection: Popular Media Representations of Care and Women's Support of  
Potential Care Policies*  
(Winner of the 2023 George Gerbner Thesis Award)  
Communication and Public Service Program, University of Pennsylvania

## TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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2019 Postgraduate Certificate of Higher Education (PGCert-HE)  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
*Inducted as a Full Fellow of the Higher Education Academy*

2018 Advanced Research Methods in Media and Communications  
LSE Department of Media and Communications

2015 Quantitative Research Methods (Introduction to Statistical Analysis)

London School of Economics and Political Science

GROUPS, COMMITTEES AND MEMBERSHIPS

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At the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Southern California:

Annenberg Center for Collaborative Communication (Postdoctoral Fellow)  
ANNCCC First Books Series (Co-Organizer)

At the University of Pennsylvania:

Center for Media at Risk (Postdoctoral Affiliate)  
Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication (Postdoctoral Affiliate)

At the London School of Economics and Political Science:

LSE Discourse Lab (Co-Founder)  
LSE Disruption, Transition & Transformation Colloquium (Co-Organizer)

At Kings College London and Queen Mary University:

International Political Sociology PhD Seminar Series (Past Member)

International Communication Association (Member)

Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division  
Feminist Scholarship Division  
Visual Communication Studies Division

OTHER SERVICE

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Manuscript Reviewer (Academic Journals)

Information, Communication and Society  
Journalism  
Visual Communication  
European Journal of Cultural Studies  
Feminist Media Studies  
Middle Eastern Journal of Communication and Culture  
The Communication Review  
Nordicom Review

Peer Reviewer (Conference Papers)

ICA Visual Communication Studies Division  
ICA Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division  
International Association of Media and Communications Researchers

Managing Editor

LSE Data and Society Blog (2018-2019)

Copy Editor

Race Post-Race: Culture, Critique and the Color Line (Duke University Press)  
*Sarah Banet-Weiser, Herman Gray and Roopali Mukherji* (Eds.)

Session Moderator

European Communications Research and Education Association (ECREA)

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

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### Languages

English (first language, fluent)

Spanish (written and spoken at B1 level)

German (written and spoken at A2 level)

## REFERENCES

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### **Sarah Banet-Weiser**

*Distinguished Professor*

Annenberg School for Communication, University  
of Pennsylvania

Annenberg School for Communication and  
Journalism, University of Southern California

[sarah.banetweiser@asc.upenn.edu](mailto:sarah.banetweiser@asc.upenn.edu)

### **Lilie Chouliaraki**

*Professor*

Department of Media and Communications,

London School of Economics and Political Science

[l.chouliaraki@lse.ac.uk](mailto:l.chouliaraki@lse.ac.uk)

### **Alyson Cole**

*Professor*

Political Science, Women's Studies, American  
Studies, and Liberal Studies

The Graduate Center and Queens College

City University of New York

[alyson.cole@qc.cuny.edu](mailto:alyson.cole@qc.cuny.edu)