

INDIRA S. SOMANI

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EDUCATION

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, Philip Merrill College of Journalism,(College Park, MD).
Ph.D. – Journalism and Public Communication, 2008.
Dissertation: Enculturation and Acculturation of television use among Asian Indians in the U.S.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, The Medill School of Journalism (Evanston, IL).
M.S.J.- Concentration: Broadcast Journalism, 1993.

KNOX COLLEGE (Galesburg, IL).
B.A. Independent Major: Media, Race and Gender, 1992.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY (Lexington, VA) 2008-Present
Tenure-track Assistant Professor, Department of Journalism

- Beat Reporting for Print/Broadcast Media
- Advanced Electronic Journalism (Broadcast Producing)

THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND (College Park, MD) 2004-2008
Adjunct Lecturer, Teaching Assistant, Philip Merrill College of Journalism

- Broadcast News Producing (Graduate and Undergraduate students).
- Professional Seminar in Public Affairs Reporting
- Seminar in Public Policy: Race, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Press
- Media Literacy

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (Washington, D.C.) 2003-2004
Assistant Professor, School of Communication, Division of Journalism

- Broadcast Journalism II (Broadcast Producing).
- Reporting.
- Understanding Mass Media.

JOURNALISM POSITIONS

CNBC (Fort Lee, NJ) October 2001 to June 2002
Producer, “Wake-up Call.”

- Overnight shift producer of 2-hour morning business program anchored from the NASDAQ.
- Wrote packages, wrote scripts, researched business stories, followed earnings reports, and developed guest segments.
- Fast-paced show with comprehensive view of world markets, featuring updates from CNBC Europe, CNBC Asia.

Senior Producer, "Early Today." June 2001 to October 2001

- Produced 30-minute network newscast that aired on 200 NBC affiliates.
- Managed a staff of 10 associate producers, writers, editors, graphic artists.
- Duties included: finding in-studio guests, story development, logistics, writing.
- After Sept. 11th, developed more "general" news resources for *Early Today* using MSNBC's foreign & domestic desk, tape library, and graphics in line with The Today Show & Nightly News "look."

YAHOO! FINANCE VISION (New York, NY) March 2001 to June 2001

Freelance Field Producer. (streaming media)

- Followed stocks on NYSE or NASDAQ, produced original content for hourly updates.
- Wrote headlines for corresponding graphics with live shots streamed in real time.

STOCKHOUSE MEDIA CORP. (New York, NY) May 2000 to January 2001

Executive Producer. (streaming media)

- Initial primary responsibility: launch broadband for dot com site.
- Duties included: teaching broadcast writing to editorial staff, coach them on delivery, build studio in Toronto office, coach and train broadband production coordinator, hire broadcast writing copy editor.
- Responsible for market summaries streamed on the site, content development.
- Special interviews included: CEO, Island.com; CEO, TheStreet.com; CEO, Netfolio.com.

WJLA-TV (ABC affiliate, Washington, DC) August 1996 to May 2000

Senior Producer, Producer, Off-air Reporter, 6 p.m. 11 p.m., Weekend Producer.

- Overseas: Field produced live coverage from Vietnam covering the 25th anniversary of the Fall of Saigon.
- Domestic: Field produced profiles of Tipper Gore, Laura Bush, Ernestine Bradley and Cindy McCain during the 2000 New Hampshire primaries.
- Field produced Shuttle Columbia Launch from Cape Canaveral, FL; "Behind the Scenes Look" at ABC Soaps, New York, NY.
- Washington, DC: Field produced "Working Woman" series. Also produced investigative, entertainment, and education stories. Produced special coverage on the death of Princess Diana.
- Produced Weekend shows, 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. weekly newscasts, filled-in as morning show producer.

WVEC-TV (ABC affiliate, Norfolk, VA) October 1995 to July 1996

Producer, 11 p.m. and Weekend newscasts

- Duties included: story development, managing reporters in the field, planning weekend news coverage, producing Sunday morning show, "Top Stories," produced special projects.

WSBT-TV (CBS affiliate, South Bend, IN) September 1994 to October 1995

Producer, 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. newscasts

- Duties included: producing fast pace local newscasts with frequent live shots, including satellite live shots, special projects.

WICS-TV (NBC affiliate, Springfield, IL)

October 1993 to September 1994

Producer, Morning newscasts

- Produced 6 a.m. newscast; wrote and edited entire show. Produced an hour morning newscast on Saturdays. Produced Noon show.

RESEARCH

JURIED PAPERS

“The American Filter,” AEJMC (Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication), Cultural and Critical Studies Division, Chicago. August 2008
Paper and Poster Session-- Poster Award Finalist.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS

AEJMC, Cultural and Critical Studies Division. August 2008
Panel Presentation: “The Transnational Audience,” Chicago, IL.

Delray Beach Film Festival May 2008
Workshop: “International Co-Productions,” (with Leena Jayaswal), Delray Beach, FL.

AEJMC, History Division March 2006
Panel Presentation: “Diverse Voices from Underused Archives”
Fordham University, New York, NY.

EWA, Education Writer’s Association May 2005
Panel Presentation: “Covering Early Childhood Education”
2005 National Seminar, 58th annual meeting, St. Petersburg, FL.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Revised Chapter 12, “Broadcast Media,” *Reaching Audiences, A Guide to Media Writing, 4th Edition* (2007), Boston: Pearson. Authors: Dr. Katherine C. McAdams, Dr. Jan Johnson Yopp.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

CROSSING LINES, *Co-Producer, Co-Director, Co-Writer, Cinematographer.*

30 minute documentary about an Indian American woman who returns to India for the first time after her father’s death.

Distributed for Public Television by NETA 2008-2011
(National Educational Telecommunications Association)

Juried Festivals/Screenings for Crossing Lines

5th Annual GiRL FeST Hawaii, Honolulu, HI Nov. 2008

8th Annual Mahindra Indo-American Arts Council Film Festival, New York, NY Nov. 2008

Cross Cultural Film Festival, Los Angeles, CA Oct. 2008

The Baltimore Women’s Film Festival, Baltimore, MD Oct. 2008

9th Annual DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival, Washington, DC	Sept. 2008
Temecula Valley International Film Festival, Temecula, CA	Sept. 2008
2 nd New Jersey Independent South Asian Cine Fest, Piscataway, NJ	Sept. 2008
Gloria Film Festival, West Valley City, UT	July 2008
CHAI, Counselors Helping (South) Asians/Indians, "Invited," Silver Spring, MD	June 2008
Austin Woman's Film, Music and Literary Festival, Austin, TX	May 2008
Delray Beach Film Festival, Delray Beach, FL	May 2008
spork A Festival of Shorts, New York, NY	April 2008
Atlanta Indo-American Film Festival, Atlanta, GA	Nov. 2007

Public Television Screenings of Crossing Lines

WQED-13 Pittsburgh, PA	Nov. 2008
KTEH-54 San Jose, CA	Oct. 2008
WKAS-25 Ashland, KY	Sept. 2008
WKGB-53 Bowling Green, KY	Sept. 2008
WCVN-54 Covington, KY	Sept. 2008
WKZT-23 Elizabethtown, KY	Sept. 2008
WHKA-35 Hazard, KY	Sept. 2008
WKLE-46 Lexington, KY	Sept. 2008
WKPC-15 WKPC-DT1 Louisville, KY	Sept. 2008
WKMA-35 Madisonville, KY	Sept. 2008
WKMR-38 Morehead, KY	Sept. 2008
WKMU-21 Murray, KY	Sept. 2008
WKOH-31 Owensboro, KY	Sept. 2008
WKON-52 Owenton, KY	Sept. 2008
WKPD-29 Paducah, KY	Sept. 2008
WKPI-22 Pikesville, KY	Sept. 2008
WKSO-29 Somerset, KY	Sept. 2008
WHYY-12.2 Philadelphia, PA	Sept. 2008
KPTS-8, KPTS-D1 Wichita, KS	Sept. 2008
KQED-W San Francisco, CA	Sept. 2008
WKAR-W East Lansing, MI	Sept. 2008
KET, Kentucky Educational Television, Lexington, KY	Sept. 2008
WMVT-36 Milwaukee, WI	Aug. 2008
UEN-TV Utah Education Network	Aug. 2008
KUEN Salt Lake City, UT	Aug. 2008
KNCT-46, KNCT-DT2 Belton/Killeen, TX	Aug. 2008
KMBH-60 Brownsville, TX	Aug. 2008
WIPB-49 WIPB-HD, Muncie, IN	Aug. 2008
WCMV-27 Cadillac, MI	Aug. 2008
WCMW-21 Manistee, MI	Aug. 2008
WCMU-14 Mt. Pleasant, MI	Aug. 2008
KCET- Orange, Huntington Beach, CA	Aug. 2008
KCET-28 Los Angeles, CA	Aug. 2008
KCET-28 Bakersfield, CA	Aug. 2008
KCET-28 Palm Springs, CA	Aug. 2008
KCET-28 Santa Barbara, CA	Aug. 2008
KCET-DT2 Los Angeles, CA	Aug. 2008

KLCS-58, KLCS-DT Los Angeles, CA	Aug. 2008
WQLN-54, WQLN –HD Erie, PA	July, Aug. 2008
MiND Presents, WYBE-35 Philadelphia, PA	July 2008
Asian Indian Immigrant Experience, Queens Public Television, NY	July 2008
University of Maryland Television, UMTV, College, Park, MD	May 2008

APNA AMERICA (“My America,”), *Co-Producer*. 2002
 Thirty-minute pilot for STAR-TV that showcased the best of the Indian diaspora in America.
 Included interviews and profiles of well-known and up-and-coming personalities in the fields of
 business, arts and culture.

GRANTS

University of Maryland, Office of the Provost (<i>Crossing Lines</i> , \$1900)	2007 & 2008
University of Maryland, Philip Merrill College of Journalism (<i>Crossing Lines</i> , \$3500)	2007
The Richard Eaton Foundation (<i>Crossing Lines</i> , \$500)	2008
American University Faculty Grant (<i>Crossing Lines</i> , \$5000) (co-wrote proposal, awarded to co-producer, Leena Jayaswal)	2004

AWARDS/HONORS/FELLOWSHIPS

University of Maryland Teaching Assistantship.	2004-2008
Wakonse Conference on College Teaching (Awarded Funding), Muskegon, MI. (Conference that critiqued and improved ideas for teaching with tenured, tenure-track faculty and graduate assistants from predominantly large universities.)	May 2006
“Outstanding story on South Asians in North America”- a story about the technology boom in Northern Virginia. (SAJA-South Asian Journalist Association).	2000
“Outstanding story on South Asians in North America”- a story about “Diwali”- a major religious festival celebrated in India and in the Indian communities in the U.S. (SAJA).	1999
Gracie Allen Award for “Working Woman” portrait series (AWRT). (AWRT-America Women in Radio and Television).	1998
Scripps-Howard Foundation Scholarship.	1992
Northwestern University Scholarship.	1992
NBC National Fellowship.	1992

MEDIA JUDGING

- Judge, *New America Media Awards*, First National Ethnic Media Competition. Nov. 2006

SAJA (SOUTH ASIAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION)

SAJA is an organization for journalists of South Asian origin and journalists interested in South Asia or the South Asian Diaspora. It promotes accurate coverage of South Asia and the South Asian diaspora, including South Asians in North America.

- Moderator of Panel, “How I got the story,” Annual Convention, New York, NY. July 2006
- Reviewed and Critiqued Broadcast Tapes. Annual Convention, New York, NY. June 2005
- Workshop Instructor, “TV News Production.” Annual Convention, New York, NY. June 2004
- National Vice President, Convention Chair, New York, NY. June 2002
 - Welcome and opening address at the Scholarship Gala Dinner.
 - Moderator of Opening Plenary: “Newsroom Decision Makers.”

Responsible for planning the entire convention, which included:

 - Finding sponsors.
 - Working with board members to plan workshops and panel discussions.
 - Finding guest speakers.
 - Organizing 3-day event at Columbia University.
 - Designing program and brochures.
 - Planning the Scholarship Gala Dinner.
 - Planned Opening Reception on Friday, June 14, 2002.
 - Planned Cocktail Reception prior to Scholarship Gala Dinner
 - 600 attendees from all over the United States at 2002 convention
- Participant of “Covering Washington” panel, Annual convention, New York, NY. June 2001
- Panel Moderator on “Anthrax,” New York Chapter, New York, NY. October 2001
- President, Washington, DC Chapter. 1997-2000
 - Launched chapter November 5, 1997, planned events and booked speakers.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/PANELS

- SAWLF, South Asian Women’s Leadership Forum, New York, NY April 2008
(SAWLF is a not-for-profit organization committed to the advancement of South Asian women professionals in the workplace.)
 - Participant
- GOPIO, Global Organization of People of Indian Origin, New Delhi, India. January 2007
 - Panel Presentation: “PIOs in Media. Their Perception of India & Indian Media, and their role in the global perception of India and bridging Indians and PIOs.”

- Indus Women Leaders, 4th Annual Leadership Summit, Washington, D.C. October 2006
(A national non-profit forum that further develops South Asian Women leaders by providing resources such as advocacy, networking, mentorship, and education).
 - Participant
- New America Media Conference, The First National EXPO of Ethnic Media. June 2005
New York, NY.
 - Participant
- SilverDocs, AFI (American Film Institute)/Discovery Channel Documentary Festival. June 2004
(SILVERDOCS, an international film festival that honors excellence in filmmaking, supports diverse voices and free expression of independent filmmakers who try to improve understanding of the world.)
 - Participant
- NETSAP, Network of South Asian Professionals 1999
 - Workshop Manager: “How to market your story to the media.” Entrepreneurship Conference, Washington, D.C.
- UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc., Convention. 1999
 - Workshop Manager: “Inside Moves: Women Broadcast Professionals Fighting Racism and Sexism on the Newsroom Floor.” Seattle, WA.
- NETSAP: Panel Participant: “Various careers for South Asians,” Washington, DC. 1997
- OAPIA, Office of Asian Pacific Islanders’ Affairs May 1997
 - Panel Participant: “Careers for Asians,” Washington, DC.
- RTNDA, Radio and Television News Directors Association
 - RTNDA Minority Managers training workshop, New York, NY. December 1993
 - RTNDA Minority Managers training workshop, Chicago, IL. April 1994
- UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc., Convention, Atlanta, GA. 1994
 - Participant

INVITED LECTURES

“Film” for Prof. Adedayo Abah’s *Introduction to the News Media* class, Washington and Lee University, Journalism Department, October 2008.

“Making of Crossing Lines” for Prof. Leena Jayaswal’s *Movies, Masala, Magic* class, American University, Film and Media Arts Division, School of Communication, April 2008.

“Making of Crossing Lines” for Dr. Lee Thornton’s *Long Form Broadcast Journalism* class, University of Maryland, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, Nov, 2007, April 2008.

“My Career Path in Journalism” for Dr. Maurine Beasley’s *Women in the Media* class, University of Maryland, Philip Merrill College of Journalism, Fall, 2006.

“Broadcast Journalism” for *Reporting* Class, American University, Washington, DC, April 2006.

“An Asian-American Broadcaster Reflects,” Knox College, Galesburg, IL, March 2006.

“Broadcast Writing,” for Prof. John Watson’s *Reporting* Class, American University, Washington, DC, Spring 2004.

“The Job Hunt,” Medill New Service, Washington, DC, Spring, 2003.

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

“Professor’s Indian Heritage Explored in New Documentary,” *The News-Gazette* (Lexington, VA), September 10, 2008.

“W&L Professor and Filmmaker Explores Her Indian Heritage,” www.rockbridgeweekly.com, September 4, 2008.

“W&L Professor and Filmmaker Explores Her Indian Heritage,” www.wlu.edu, September 3, 2008.

“Indira’s Crossing,” *India Abroad*, August 29, 2008.

“Shining a Light,” *American Journalism Review*, February/March 2007.

“A Land of a Billion Opportunities,” *India Abroad*, June 4, 2004.

“He just couldn’t sit quietly. He had to be productive everyday,” *India Abroad*. November 22, 2002.

“Spotlight on South Asians,” by *NewsWatch*, June 10, 2002.

Highlighted in photographs of SAJA Convention, *India Abroad*, June, 2002.

“Despite anthrax fears, South Asian journalists have a job to do,” *India Abroad*, October 26, 2001.

“Post 9/11 Response to Newsrooms,” program called “Asian America,” WNYE-TV, Channel 25, New York, NY. October 2001.

“Kathleen Matthews: Working Woman Champion,” *Washington Woman*, November, 1999.

“Darshan,” Indian program on WNVC-TV in Washington, DC, April 4, 1998.

“The Business of Broadcasting,” *American Journalism Review*, 1993.

PUBLICATIONS

“Bollywood Takes Center Stage at Toronto Film Festival,” *India West*, San Leandro, CA, Sept. 15, 2006

“Office Hours,” *Medill* (Alumni Magazine), Fall 2005

“Bush Gets Failing Grades on Global Women’s Issues,” *OneWorld.net*, March 5, 2004

“Uzbekistan Released One Rights Advocate, Arrests Another,” *OneWorld.net*, February 26, 2004

“Lasting Impressions,” *The State Journal Register*, Springfield, IL, June 15, 2003.

“Bookstore gives women a voice,” *The Monitor* (Medill Graduate Student Quarterly Newspaper), Winter, 1993.

“Aphna Ghar staff make hectic preparations for fundraiser,” *India Tribune*, November, 1993.

“Tunnel’s neighbors see Phelan,” *Life* (Morton Grove-Niles, IL), December 10, 1992.

“Deep Tunnel rocking village,” *Life* (Morton Grove-Niles, IL), November 26, 1992.

“Continental hikes basic cable rate,” *The Bugle* (Niles, IL), November 26, 1992.

“Morton Grove truck law raises residents’ ire,” *The Bugle* (Niles, IL), November 19, 1992.

“Soul Search India,” *Hinduism Today*, February, 1991.

“AIPAC-CI raises \$3500 for Cong. Durbin,” *India Tribune*, August, 11, 1990.

“Indian MP addresses Illinois legislature,” *Spotlight*, June 30, 1990.

“Growing up in America,” *Spotlight*, June 16, 1990.

“One can be both Indian and American in this society,” *India Tribune*, June 9, 1990.

“Indian MP addresses Illinois legislature,” *Spotlight*, June 30, 1990.

“Brain drain worries Indo-Americans,” *Spotlight*, April 28, 1990.

“Music unites South Asians,” *Spotlight*, May 12, 1990.

“Indian values cherished after wedding visit,” *India Tribune*, September 22, 1984.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

BEA, Broadcast Educators Association, 2008.

ICA, International Communication Association, 2005.

AEJMC, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, 2004.

SAJA, South Asian Journalists Association, 1995.

- National Vice President, Convention Chair, 2002
- National Board Member 2002.
- SAJA President, Washington, DC Chapter, 1997-2000.

Medill Alumni member of Washington, DC Chapter, 1996.

SERVICE

ACADEMIC SERVICE

American University—School of Communication, Curriculum Committee (2003-2004).

COMMUNITY SERVICE

TSET, Tulsabai Somani Educational Trust. Honorary board member. 2004 – present.

- Trust awards scholarships to college students in India, helped build an area school.

MHz Networks (Independent Public Broadcasting Station), Falls Church, VA. October 2006.

- Host of “13th Annual Diwali Festival” (live telethon from 9am to 1pm).

Upakar, Board Member, Washington, D.C., 1999-2000.

- Scholarship foundation for South Asian high school and college students in the U. S.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS

- Medill School of Journalism, Mentor, Washington, DC Chapter. 2003 to Present.
- Knox College, Knox Student (college newspaper) Mentor, New York, NY, March 2003.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Certified Yoga Instructor, Sivananda Yoga Organization, Woodbourne, NY, June 2008.

Georgetown University, School of Continuing Education, June to August 2003.

- Introduction to Screen-Writing, Spanish.

Washington School of Photography (Bethesda, MD), May to July 2003.

New York University, School of Continuing Education, June to August 2002.

- Writing for Magazines, Personal Essay Writing.

Final Cut Pro Workshop, New York, NY, Fall, 2000.

Toastmasters, 1997-2000, Washington, DC. National Press Club Chapter.

- Earned CTM pin, Competent Toastmaster.

LANGUAGES

Russian: read and write.

Hindi: general knowledge.

DIGITAL SKILLS

Dreamweaver

Adobe Photoshop

Moderately proficient on Avid Newscutter, Final Cut Pro.