Isaac S. Blacksin
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Communication and Journalism   email: blacksin@tamu.edu
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EDUCATION

2013-2021   **Ph.D., University of California, Santa Cruz**
History of Consciousness department, certificate in Anthropology
Committee: Robert Meister, James Clifford, Banu Bargu, Hayden White

2008-2010   **M.A., Stanford University**
Religious Studies department

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2024-present   **Assistant Professor of Critical Media Studies**
Department of Communication and Journalism
Texas A&M University

2023-2025   **Research Fellow**
Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy
University of Southern California

2023-2024   **Visiting Assistant Professor of Mass Communication**
School of Arts and Sciences
Menlo College

2021-2023   **Postdoctoral Fellow**
Society of Fellows & Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California

PUBLICATIONS

Books
Blacksin, Isaac. 2024. *Conflicted: Making News from Global War*. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press

Journal articles (selected)
Blacksin, Isaac. 2024. "Extermination as Protection: Humanitarian Desire and the News from the Battle for Mosul." *Public Culture* 36(2): 209-229
Blacksin, Isaac, and Saumava Mitra. 2024. "Straddlers not Spiralists: Critical Questions for Research on Fixers, Local-Foreign News Work, and Cross-Border Journalism." *Journalism* 25(6): 1271-1289
Blacksin, Isaac. 2023. "Death's Common Sense: Casualty Counts in War Reportage from Syria and Beyond." *Media, War & Conflict* 16(3): 401-417

Blacksin, Isaac. 2022. "Agitation at the Margins: War, Reportage, and their Internal
	Contradiction." *HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory* 12(2): 421-435
Blacksin, Isaac. 2021. "Situated and Subjugated: Fixer Knowledge in the Global Newsroom."
	Applied Journalism and Media Studies 11(3): 333-354

Essays, chapters, reviews (selected)
Blacksin, Isaac. 2022. "Brown Now: Communion, Mystery, and Public Knowledge." *boundary 2*
	49(3): 1-4
Blacksin, Isaac. 2022. "Violence, Magic, Certainty: A Journalistic Worlding." In *Geo-Spatiality in
	Asian and Oceanic Literature and Culture,* edited by Serena Chou, et al., 95-114. New York:
	Palgrave Macmillan
Blacksin, Isaac. 2021. "Afghanistan's False Choices." *Viewpoint Magazine*, fall issue (online)
Blacksin, Isaac. 2020. "Review of Caleb S. Cage, War Narratives: Shaping Beliefs, Blurring
	Truths in the Middle East." *Media, War & Conflict* 13(4): 506-508
Blacksin, Isaac, and James Clifford. 2018. "Our Apocalypse, Our Metamorphosis." UCSC
	Humanities Institute (online)
Blacksin, Isaac. 2013. "Contested Terrain: Development, Identity, and the Destruction of an
	Ancient City in Afghanistan." *Kyoto Journal* 77: 36–51
Blacksin, Isaac. 2013. "Ghost Town: Myanmar's New Capital Grows Up." *Kyoto Journal*, online
	feature

Editorships
Co-editor, special issue, *boundary 2*. 2020-2022
Contributing editor, *Kyoto Journal.* 2012-2013

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Invited talks
"Making Death Meaningful: On Journalism's Humanitarian Desire." History of Consciousness
	Speaker Series. University of California, Santa Cruz, May 2025
"Journalism in Conditions of Violence." Rotary Club Speaker Series. Menlo Park Rotary Club,
	Menlo Park, CA, March 2024
"Depoliticized Violence, Remoralized War." Department of Communication Colloquium.
	University of California, San Diego, May 2022
"Liberation as Siege: An Inquiry into War Reportage." Annenberg Research Seminar. University
	of Southern California, January 2022
"Joseph Conrad and the Heart of Fake News." Emeritus Lecture Series. University of California,
	Santa Cruz, March 2017

Conferences organized
"Before Justice: Robert Meister's Legacy of Critique." University of California, Santa Cruz.
	February 2, 2024
"Norman O. Brown: Into the Future." University of California, Santa Cruz. May 17-18, 2019

Papers presented (selected)
"Military Simulation, Popular Culture, and the Communication of Fantasy." International
	Communication Association annual meeting. Denver, June 2025

"A 'Reflexive Turn' for Journalism Studies: Critical Assessment of Journalism's Ethnographic Research." International Communication Association annual meeting. Denver, June 2025

"Ethnography, Law & Society: New Books in the Field." Law & Society Association annual meeting. Chicago, May 2025

"*After Evil* as Media Critique." Before Justice: Robert Meister's Legacies of Critique. University of California, Santa Cruz, February 2024

"Straddlers not Spiralists: Critical Questions for Research on Fixers." International Communication Association annual meeting. Toronto, May 2023

"Counting Violence: Symbolism and Expectation in Journalism from Syria." American Anthropological Association annual meeting. Seattle, WA, November 2022

"Death's Common Sense: On Casualty Counts in International Journalism." International Communication Association annual meeting. Paris, May 2022

"Counting Death in the Wartime Press." Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual meeting. Virtual, April 2022

"War Reportage and Violent Transformation." Rethinking War conference. Virtual, March 2022

"Journalist as Collector: Assembling Authoritative Truth." American Anthropological Association annual meeting. Baltimore, MD, November 2021

"Fixer Knowledge, Global News." International Communication Association annual meeting. Virtual, May 2021

"What War Is: Production and Erasure in Reporting Violence Today." Society for Cinema and Media Studies annual meeting. Virtual, March 2021

"Roundtable: Examining Contemporary Representations of Armed Conflict." Northeast Modern Language Association convention. Virtual, March 2021

"Empathy-Production as Military Logic: Narrating War in Mosul, Iraq." Modern Language Association annual meeting. Seattle, WA, January 2020

"Knowing War in Mosul: Journalism, Human Rights, and Representing Violence." American Anthropological Association annual meeting. Vancouver, BC, November 2019

"Agitation at the Margins: The Archival Tensions of Reporting War." Violence, Space, and the Archive conference. National University of Ireland, Galway, May 2019

"Intimacy and Convention: War News as Dream Text." (Dis)Figuring War conference. Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University, November 2018

"Senseless Encounter, Immutable Sense: Desire and Fantasy in News about War." American Anthropological Association annual meeting. San Jose, CA, November 2018

"Fixing Knowledge: On Truth and Possibility in War Reportage." American Anthropological Association annual meeting. Washington, DC, December 2017

"To Cover the Other: Rethinking the 'Foreign' in Foreign Correspondence." Rethinking Media in the Middle East conference. The American University of Beirut, January 2017

"The Journalist as Poet: Notes on Violence, Mimesis, and the Real." Berkeley-Stanford Conference on (Non)Sense. University of California, Berkeley, April 2016

"A Problem of Access: Journalistic Uncertainties and the Textualization of Violence." Anthropology in Transit Conference. University of California, Irvine, May 2015

COURSES TAUGHT (selected)

Mass Media and Politics
Global Media
Foundations in Humanistic and Critical Inquiry
Media and Society

Theories of Ideology
Theory and Methods: Media on Conflict
Media in the Global War on Terror
War and the Media
Cultures of Communication
The Politics of Violence

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS (selected)

2025	Best Book Award, International Communication Association, Division of Philosophy, Theory & Critique
2019-20	Dissertation completion fellowship, The Humanities Institute, University of California, Santa Cruz
2019-20	National Endowment for the Humanities grant (PI Nancy Kates), US National Endowment for the Humanities
2018	Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship, US Dept. of Education (declined)
2018	Kathryn Davis Fellows for Peace fellowship, Middlebury College
2017-18	Dissertation fieldwork grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation
2017	Puknat Literary Studies Endowment grant, University of California, Santa Cruz
2015	Silas Palmer Research Fellowship, Hoover Library Archives, Stanford University

PROJECTS & INITIATIVES

Research projects

2023-present	Military imagination field research. Observation of military training simulations and interviews with wargame designers and military consultants
2016-2022	War reporting field research. Observation and interviews with journalists, fixers, and editors in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Ukraine
2015-2017	War reporting archival research. Survey of journalists' notebooks from WWII, Vietnam, and Iraq at the American University of Beirut and Stanford University

Research groups

"Texas Ethnography Lab," working group and research laboratory. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, 2025-present

"War Media Study Group," research and analysis. Public, 2022-present

"Media as SocioTechnical Systems (MASTS)," research initiative. Annenberg School, University of Southern California, 2021-2023

"Civic Paths," research and public outreach. University of Southern California, 2021-2023

"Memory of Forgotten Wars," research cluster. UC Santa Cruz, Humanities Institute, 2019-2020

"Civil War," research cluster. University of California, Humanities Research Institute, 2017-2018