

Cerianne Robertson

Curriculum Vitae

cerianne.robertson@asc.upenn.edu

EDUCATION

PhD, Communication **2024**

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Dissertation: The politics of development and displacement in Inglewood and Los Angeles' stadium borderlands

Award: Annenberg Graduate Fellowship for Advanced Students, 2023-2024

Award: Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2022-2023

MPhil, Sociology **2017**

University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Thesis: Contesting the media event: Alternative media at the Rio 2016 Olympics

Award: Gates Cambridge Scholarship, 2016-2017

B.A., Social Studies **2013**

Harvard College, Cambridge, MA

Thesis: "Professors of our own poverty": Intellectual practices of poor people's movements in post-Apartheid South Africa

Award: Philippe Wamba Prize for best senior thesis in African Studies, 2013

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

George Gerbner Postdoctoral Fellow **2024-present**

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Assistant Lecturer **2022**

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Teaching Assistant and Research Assistant **2019-2021**

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Refereed journal articles:

Robertson, Cerianne, and Pratik Nyaupane. 2024. The Stadium as Sociotechnical Change. *International Journal of Communication*, 18:793-799. <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/21843/4467>.

Robertson, Cerianne. 2024. “Opportunities and Challenges for Critical Reporting at the Olympics: Journalists’ Perspectives From Tokyo 2020.” *Communication & Sport* 12(1):81-98.
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/21674795231151574>.

Robertson, Cerianne. 2018. “The Media Event Build-Up Phase: A Site of Contestation and Counternarratives.” *International Journal of Communication* 12:3207-3226.
<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/8149>.

Gaffney, Chris, and **Cerianne Robertson.** 2018. “Smarter than Smart: Rio de Janeiro's Flawed Emergence as a Smart City.” *Journal of Urban Technology* 25(3):47-64.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/10630732.2015.1102423>.

Robertson, Cerianne. 2014. “Professors of our own poverty: intellectual practices of a poor people’s movement in post-apartheid South Africa.” *Interface* 6(1):185-210.
<http://www.interfacejournal.net/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Interface-6-1-Robertson.pdf>.

Invited book chapters:

Robertson, Cerianne. In press. Noisy stadiums and tenants making noise: The fight to stay put on Flower Drive. In *The Sound of Victory: Music, Sport and Society*, edited by C.M. Cox & P.B. Johnson. New York: New York University Press.

Wolfe, Sven Daniel, and **Cerianne Robertson.** 2024. Los Angeles 2028. In *Olympic Cities: City agendas, planning, and the World’s Games, 1896-2032*, 4th ed., edited by J.R. Gold & M.M Gold, 479-498. London and New York: Routledge.

Robertson, Cerianne. 2022. “‘Built to host’? Built for whom? The LA2028 Olympics and Urban Exclusions.” In *Mega events, urban transformations and social citizenship*, edited by N. Cuppini, F. Bignami, and N. Hanakata. London and New York: Routledge.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2023. “Reimagining tenant power, reimagining housing rights: Tenant union storytelling rituals in Los Angeles, California.” Presented in Toronto, ON: Reimagining Urban Communication post-conference, International Communication Association (May 30).

2023. “Sounds of gentrification, sounds of resistance, sounds of home.” Presented in Denver, CO: American Association of Geographers (March 25).

2023. “To reject or negotiate? Inglewood sports stadiums and community resistance.” Presented in Fullerton, CA: Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research (March 17).

2022. “The LA Rams versus... the Inglewood Tenants? Tenants’ Perspectives on Stadium Development, Displacement, and Resistance.” Presented in Los Angeles, CA: American Sociological Association (August 9).

2022. “Reporting on Tokyo 2020: Journalists’ Reflections.” Presented in Paris, France: International Communication Association (May 29).

2022. “Are the Olympics to blame? Discourses on urban transformation near LA 2028 venues.” Presented in Montreal, QC: North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (April 23).

2022. “Discourses of Changing Urban Space at Inglewood’s Super Bowl 2022.” Presented on Zoom: American Association of Geographers (March 1).

2020. “Jamming the Olympic Rings: Anti-Olympics Art Across Time and Space.” Presented on Zoom: International Communication Association (May 21-25).

2020. “Relay of Resistance: Researching the Transnational Anti-Olympics Movement.” Presented on Zoom: International Communication Association (May 21-25).

2019. ““Is it going to be our The Session?”: Anti-Olympics organizers counter-program Tokyo 2020.” Presented in Virginia Beach, VA: North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (November 7).

2019. “Disrupting the news media canon: Citizen media monitoring in Rio’s favelas.” Presented at USC-Annenberg, Los Angeles, CA: Critical Mediations (October 4).

2017. “Contesting Olympic Narratives: Media Activism and the 2016 Rio Games.” Presented at Goldsmiths, University of London: London, Rio, Tokyo Olympics Symposium (June 10).

2017. “Contesting Olympic Narratives: Media Activism and the 2016 Rio Games.” Presented at University of Cambridge: VI Oxbridge Conference on Brazilian Studies (May 27).

CONFERENCE PANELS ORGANIZED

2022. “Olympics, Media, Discourse, and Power.” International Communication Association (May 29). (Co-organized with Jules Boykoff).

2022. “Mega-event geographies.” American Association of Geographers (March 1). (Co-organized with Christopher Gaffney).

TEACHING & MENTORSHIP

Instructor of Record for COMM 340: Cultures of New Media, USC	Spring 2022
PhD co-mentor for an undergraduate student honors thesis	2021-2022
Instructor of discussion sections (2) for COMM 200: Communication and Social Science, USC	Fall 2021
Instructor of discussion section for COMM 206: Communication and Culture, USC	Fall 2020
Teaching assistant (grader) for additional USC communication courses:	
Sports and Social Change	Spring 2020
The Changing World of Communication and Journalism	Fall 2019

SERVICE TO THE FIELD AND ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Peer review:

Ad hoc review for *Communication and Sport* (2024)

Ad hoc review for *Journal of Urban Affairs* (2023)

Ad hoc review *International Journal of Communication* (2021-22)

Departmental service:

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California

Served as a departmental steward for the Graduate Student Worker Organizing Committee’s unionization push (2021-23)

Served as Vice President (2019-20) and Post-qualifying Exams Representative (2023-24) for USC Communication PhD student body

Served as PhD student representative to the department’s Long Range Planning Committee (2019-20)

RESEARCH FUNDING

Individual

Annenberg Graduate Fellowship for Advanced Students (2023-2024) Competitive departmental fellowship to support dissertation work	\$38,700
Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (2022-2023) Competitive external fellowship to support dissertation work	\$36,000
USC Graduate School Summer Research Grant (2022) Competitive USC grant to support dissertation research costs	\$2,000
Annenberg Summer Research Fellowship (2019) Competitive departmental grant to support research costs Project: “Is it going to be our The Session?”: Anti-Olympics organizers counter-program Tokyo 2020	\$2,000

Team

Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada: Connection Grant (2023). Grant to fund a multi-city research project titled, “Inhabiting the mega-evental city: Fighting for our rights from the streets.” PIs are Nicholas Blomley (Simon Fraser University) and Melora Koepke.	67,000 CAD
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PUBLIC-FACING RESEARCH

Cerianne Robertson. 2023. “Small Guys Like Us Don’t Get Heard.’ Inglewood Transit Connector Will Displace 41 Businesses.” *Knock-LA*. <https://knock-la.com/inglewood-transit-connector-will-displace-41-businesses/>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2020, November 16. “Jamming the Olympic Rings: Anti-Olympics Art Across Space and Time.” *Confessions of an Aca-Fan*. <http://henryjenkins.org/blog/2020/10/30/jamming-the-olympic-rings-anti-olympics-art-across-space-and-time>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2020, June 17. “Organizing a transnational anti-Olympics summit: An oral history, part 1.” *Olympics Watch*. <https://olympicswatch.org/2020/06/17/organizing-a-transnational-anti-olympics-oral-history-part-1/>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2020, June 18. “Organizing a transnational anti-Olympics summit: An oral history, part 2.” *Olympics Watch*. <https://olympicswatch.org/2020/06/18/organizing-a-transnational-anti-olympics-oral-history-part-2/>.

Cerianne Robertson, François Bar, and Graham DiGuseppi. 2020, April 9. “How can the houseless fight the coronavirus? A community organization partners with academics to create a grassroots hand-washing infrastructure.” *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-can-the-houseless-fight-the-coronavirus-a-community-organization-partners-with-academics-to-create-a-grassroots-hand-washing-infrastructure-135624>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2019, May 30. “Where do *LA Times* staffers go after they leave the paper?” *Columbia Journalism Review*. https://www.cjr.org/business_of_news/la-times-cuts-layoffs.php.

Lead researcher on:

Catalytic Communities. 2017. “Favelas in the Media: A Comparison of Eight Global Outlets.” <http://catcomm.org/favelas-in-the-media-comparison/>.

Catalytic Communities. 2016. “Favelas in the Media: How the Image of Favelas Evolved During Rio’s Mega-Event Years, 2008-2016.” <http://catcomm.org/media-analysis-2016/>.

Catalytic Communities. 2015. “Favelas in the Media: Shifting Public Perception 2009-2014.” <http://catcomm.org/media-analysis>.

SELECT JOURNALISM HIGHLIGHTS

Lisa Kwon and **Cerianne Robertson.** 2021, December 27. “USC Alumni want Flower Drive tenants gone, but they’re here to stay.” *Knock LA*. <https://knock-la.com/flower-drive-tenants-fight-olympics/>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2020, June 30. “Homes are essential, Inglewood’s new stadium is not.” *Knock-LA*. <https://knock-la.com/inglewood-sofi-tenants-stadiums-olympics-displacement-2d54444fb90f/>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2019, December 3. “NOlympics Anywhere: A transnational movement to stop the Olympic Games is gathering strength.” *Play the Game*.

https://www.playthegame.org/news/comments/2019/093_nolympics-anywhere-a-transnational-movement-to-stop-the-olympic-games-is-gathering-strength/.

Cerianne Robertson. 2016, August 3. “How not to write about Rio.” *Politico*.
<http://www.politico.eu/article/how-not-to-write-about-rio-de-janeiro-2016-olympic-and-paralympic-games-media-coverage/>.

Cerianne Robertson. 2014 – 2017. More than 30 articles for RioOnWatch.org—
<http://www.rioonwatch.org/?writer=cerianne-robertson>—with highlights including:

2017, November 9. “The Results Are In: Costly Mega-Event Transport Projects Did Not Expand Mobility, Address Inequalities.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=40085>.

2017, June 20. “Life After Eviction: Heloisa Helena’s Struggle Against Religious and Racial Discrimination [INTERVIEW].” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=36904>.

2016, August 27. “Not All International Media Were Swept Away by Post-Olympics Euphoria.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=32322>.

2016, August 7. “Circus Maximus Debunks the Myth of an Economic Legacy from the Games.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=31392>.

2016, July 18. “The Best and Worst of Pre-Olympic Reporting on Rio de Janeiro’s Favelas.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=30609>.

2016, April 27. “A Close Look at the International Awards and Recognition of the Olympic City.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=28309>.

2016, April 13. “Babilônia Residents Face Distant Removal Due to Abandonment of Morar Carioca Promises.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=28023>.

2016, March 17. “A Tale of Two Plans: A Critique of Mayor Paes’ Plan for Vila Autódromo.” <http://www.rioonwatch.org/?p=27526>.

PRESS INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

Global Reporting Centre. 2024. “State of Play: Summer Games Podcast”: Episodes 4 (“Fighting Back”) and 5 (“Sport Capital USA”). <https://globalreportingcentre.org/state-of-play/>.

Fansided. 2022, July 20. “World Athletics Championships highlight the conflict of ‘green’ sporting events.” <https://fansided.com/2022/07/20/world-athletics-championships-green-sporting-events/>.

BBC Radio 4. 2020, June 22. “Meanwhile in Tokyo.” <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m000k7jy>.

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Catalytic Communities
Editor, *RioOnWatch.org*

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2017 - 2018

Coordinated and edited news, profile, and research articles for RioOnWatch.org, managed reporters and interns, developed internal and external communication materials, and coordinated social media.

Research Coordinator

2014 - 2017

Led 16-person team in study of Rio’s favelas in global media, spearheaded and developed ‘Olympics Resources for Journalists’ to improve favela reporting, coordinated and edited research articles for RioOnWatch.org, and wrote analysis articles and strategy documents.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Languages: Intermediate Portuguese and Spanish, basic French.

Geospatial: Trained in ArcGIS Pro Esri through “GIS for Public Policy, Planning and Development” course at USC, 2022.

International experience: Worked in the United States, South Africa, Botswana, Germany, Brazil.