

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEACH IN RESOURCES

The Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media works collaboratively with the entertainment and media industries to reduce negative stereotyping and to achieve cultural equity and inclusion onscreen, with a special focus on content targeting children 11 and under. We are the only research-based organization examining representation of six identities in media: gender, race, LGBTQ+, disability, age, and body size. For more information on our research, training and impact visit www.seejane.org.

These resources are the result of a 5-day social justice teach-in the Institute held June 8-12, 2020 for our members. For more information on becoming a member of the Institute, please visit seejane.org/membership.

Why Social Movements Matter

Dr. Ninotchka McTaggart and Caroline Heldman presented a brief history of social movements and an analysis of the #BlackLivesMatter movement today.

To order Dr. Ninotchka McTaggart's Book: [White Privilege: The Persistence of Racial Hierarchy in a Culture of Denial](#) (Cognella, 2020).

Resources

I want to know more about...

... how Black people built the United States into a global economic superpower:
[Slavery and the Making of America](#) documentary series, PBS

... the history of slavery and violence against Black people in America:
[The 1619 Project](#) article series, Nikole Hannah-Jones

... how the Declaration of Independence codified racial inequality:
[The Shameful Final Grievance of the Declaration of Independence](#) article, Jeffrey Ostler

... how local law enforcement has its origins in Slave Patrols:
[The Racist Roots of American Policing](#) article, Connie Hassett-Walker

... how law enforcement re-enslaved recently freed Black people after the abolition of formal slavery:
[Slavery by Another Name](#) documentary, Douglas Blackmon

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... how the crime exception in the 13th Amendment allowed the continued enslavement of Black people and the rise of mass incarceration:

[13th](#) documentary, directed by Ava DuVernay

... why social movements emerge and what makes them effective:

[Social Movements and Social Change](#) book chapter, Introduction to Sociology

... how this moment is a test for American democracy:

[America, This Is Your Chance](#) article, Michelle Alexander

... the best ways to talk to your children about racism:

[How to Talk to Your Children About Racism](#) article, American Academy of Pediatrics

... how to avoid optical or performative allyship:

[Performative Allyship is Deadly \(Here's What to Do Instead\)](#) article, Holliday Phillips

...how to discuss Black Lives Matters with young people:

[Black Lives Matters at School](#) website

...how to help with the most pressing civil liberties issues currently:

[American Civil Liberties Union](#) website

... the goals, leadership, and progress made by Black Lives Matters Movement: [Black Lives Matter](#) website

... color blind racism and how to confront racism—both personally and on a larger structural level: [Racism without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in America](#) book, Eduardo Bonilla-Silva

...white people calling the police on Black people doing everyday activities and policies to combat this racial profiling:

[#LivingWhileBlack](#) article, Rebecca Clay

... how universities are exploiting Black athletes, and what we can do about it:

[Are Universities Exploiting Black Male Athletes in Order to Raise Revenues?](#) article, James McWilliams

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Hollywood's Hidden History of Race & Gender Codes

In order to overturn deeply embedded racial stereotypes we need to first understand their historical trajectory and the imaginary work they serve.

-Paraphrased from Linda Williams, *Playing the Race Card*

Dr. Nicole Haggard and Munika Lay examined Hollywood's little-known history around explicitly censoring representations of race and gender. These foundational rules continue to shape media content today.

Resources

I want to know more about...

... continuing to learn more and do the 'work':

[Center for Intersectional Media and Entertainment](#)
[Hollywood, White Supremacy, and Me: A Workshop for Allies in Media and Entertainment](#)

... the history of Hollywood:

[Video Series: Annenberg Learner: American Cinema](#)

Maltby, Richard. *Hollywood Cinema*. 2nd ed. Massachusetts: Blackwell Publishing, 2003.

Mast, Gerald, ed. *The Movies in Our Midst: Documents in the Cultural History of Film in America*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1982.

... the history of the Production Code:

Moley, Raymond. *The Hays Office*. New York: The Cornwall Press, Inc., 1945.

Leff, Leonard J., and Jerold Simmons. *The Dame in the Kimono: Hollywood, Censorship, and the Production Code from the 1920s to the 1960s*. 1st ed. New York: Grove Weidenfeld, 1990.

... impact of the production code on interracial representation:

Haggard, Nicole. "Race Sex and Hollywood: Black Men and White Women Censored" in *American Multicultural Studies*. ed. Sherrow Spinder. Sage Publications, 2013.

*email nicole@seejane.org for a PDF and any specific questions about this history

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Courtney, Susan. *Hollywood Fantasies of Miscegenation: Spectacular Narratives of Gender and Race, 1903-1967*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2005.

Gaines, Jane. *Fire and Desire: Mixed-Race Movies in the Silent Era*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2001.

Marchetti, Gina. *Romance and the 'Yellow Peril': Race, Sex, and Discursive Strategies in Hollywood Fiction*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993.

Wartenberg, Thomas E. *Unlikely Couples: Movie Romance as Social Criticism*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1999.

...the history of the Production code and homosexuality:

[The Celluloid Closet, 1987](#) (Book and Documentary)

... the Supreme Court Cases you mentioned:

Birth of a Nation: Mutual Film Corporation v. Industrial Commission of Ohio, 236 U.S. 230 (1915).

Pinky: Gelling v. Texas, 343 U.S. 960 (1952).

Miracle Decision: Joseph Burstyn, Inc. v. Wilson, 343 U.S. 495 (1952).

... the "Greatest Taboo" articles:

"Negro and White Love Scenes That Shock-It-to-Ya." *Coronet*, April 1969.

"Is It Still Taboo for Blacks and Whites to Kiss in the Movies?" *Jet*, April 27, 1998.

Carson, Tom. "Skin Flicks." *GQ*, June 5, 2005.

... whiteness and American film:

Dyer, Richard. *White*. New York: Routledge, 1997. (Introduction is EXCELLENT)

Bernardi, Daniel. *The Birth of Whiteness: Race and the Emergence of U.S. Cinema*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1996.

Bernardi, Daniel., ed. *The Persistence of Whiteness: Race and Contemporary Hollywood Cinema*. New York: Routledge, 2007.

Lipsitz, George. *The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: How White People Profit from Identity Politics*. Revised and Expanded ed. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006.

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... history of depicting African Americans in film:

Bogle, Donald. *Toms, Coons, Mulattoes, Mammies, and Bucks: An Interpretive History of Blacks in American Films*. New York: Viking Press, 1973. rev. 4th ed. New York: Continuum, 2004.

Guerrero, Ed. *Framing Blackness: The African American Image in Film*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1993.

hooks, bell. *Black Looks: Race and Representation*. Boston: South End Press, 1992.

Williams, Linda. *Playing the Race Card: Melodramas of Black and White from Uncle Tom to O.J. Simpson*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Haggard, Nicole "The Birth of the Black Rapist: The 'Brutal Black Buck' in American Culture" in *Evil in American Pop Culture*. ed. Sharon Packer. ABC-CLIO, 2014.

*email nicole@seejane.org for a PDF

... race and gender film theory:

Gaines, Jane. "White Privilege and Looking Relations: Race and Gender in Feminist Film Theory." *Screen* 29, no. 4 (1988).

Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. New York: Vintage Books, 1993.

Mulvey, Laura. "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema." *Screen* 16, no. 3 (September 21, 1975, 1975): 6-18.

... Hollywood intersectional workforce statistics:

[UCLA Hollywood Diversity Report 2020](#)

[USC Annenberg Inclusion Initiative, Behind the Camera Reports](#)

[The Center for the Study of Women in Television and Film, 2019 Celluloid Ceiling Report](#)

... movement for intersectional gender equity in Hollywood workforce:

Haggard and Heldman. "Women in Hollywood: The Ongoing Fight for Equality" Mount Saint Mary's University Collectif, Spring 2018.

[Makers, Women in Hollywood. Season 2, Episode 2.](#)

[This Changes Everything](#) Documentary

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Why Media Representations Matter

“Stories matter. Many stories matter. Stories have been used to dispossess and to malign. But stories can also be used to empower, and to humanize. Stories can break the dignity of a people. But stories can also repair that broken dignity.”

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, [The Danger of a Single Story](#)

Soraya Giaccardi and Romeo Perez illuminated the relationship between media and society with a focus on how media shapes our lives. This session presented data specifically on race and representation that highlights the Institutes' trailblazing research.

Resources

I want to know more about...

...representation of race/ethnicity:

[Black Women and the Changing Face of Media](#) website

[What Hollywood Movies Do to Perpetuate Racial Stereotypes](#) article, Kira Schacht

[Black Male Re-Imagined](#) website

[Representation: Culture and Perception](#) website

[Media Representations and Impact on the Lives of Black Men and Boys](#) report

[Six Harmful Patterns in Newspaper Presentations of Race](#) report

[Media Portrayals of Black Men Contribute to Police Violence, Rutgers Study Says](#) press release

[Why Can't Reality TV Stop Stereotyping Black Women?](#) article, Movie Biakalo

...onscreen representation gender, race, LGBTQ+, disability, age, and body size in film and television:

The Institute's annual reports: [See Jane 2020 Film](#) and [See Jane 2020 Television](#)

...talking to children about race:

[Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup](#) article, Katrina Michie

[Teaching Ideas and Resources to Help Students Make Sense of the George Floyd Protests](#) article, Natalie Prouix and Katherine Schulten

...what BIPOC means:

[The BIPOC Project](#) website

... appropriate LGBTQ terms:

[LGBTQ Definitions Every Good Ally Should Know](#) article, Alia E. Dastagir

[GLAAD Media Reference Guide](#) website

...stereotypes about the LGBTQ community:

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[Eleven Stereotypes People Should Stop Believing About the LGBTQ Community](#)

...the Vito Russo test for assessing LGBTQ representation:

[The Vito Russo Test](#) website

...representation of the LGBTQ community:

[How the Media Has Helped Change Public Views About Lesbian and Gay People](#) article, Phillip M. Ayoub

[More Than a Number - Shifting the Media Narrative on Transgender Homicides](#) report

...including trans* and non-binary folk into my content:

[TRANSform Hollywood: An Open Letter to Hollywood](#) website

Additional Readings:

[News Media Offers Consistently Warped Portrayals of Black Families](#)

[When the Media Misrepresents Black Men, the Effects are Felt in the Real World](#)

[As Pride Month Kicks Off, Black Trans Activists Want Their Stories Centered](#)

How to Be an Effective Ally

Joy Donnell presented information about the history and importance of allyship in social movements, and how to be an effective ally for any movement for social justice.

How to Be an Effective Ally Resources

I want to know more about . . .

...resources on race for children:

[Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk About Race: Resource Roundup](#)

[Coretta Scott King Book Awards](#)

[How Parents can Raise and Teach their Kids to be Anti-racist, According to Educators and Activists](#)

[How to Teach White Kids Allyship](#)

...self-directed learning

“Black Skin, White Masks,” Frantz Fanon, 1952

“Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race,” Debby Irving, 2014

“The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the Twenty-First Century,” Grace Lee Boggs, Scott Kurashige, and Danny Glover, 2011

They Were Her Property: White Women as Slave Owners in the American South, Stephanie E. Jones-Roger, 2019

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...financial disenfranchisement of Black stories and the Racial Wealth Gap:

[“Jim Crow of the North”](#)

[“Race for Profit: How Banks and the Real Estate Industry Undermined Black Homeownership”](#)

[“Red Summer of 1919”](#)

[“Tulsa Race Riot on Black Wall Street”](#)

Creating a Personal Action Plan

Dr. Ninotchka McTaggart, Lisa Emery, Rebecca Cooper, Hannah Phillips, and Dr. Caroline Heldman guided attendees through the process of creating a personal plan of action for engaging in social justice. It focused specifically on how you can best act right now to support the #BlackLivesMatter movement given your time, skills, resources, and values.

Additional Readings:

White Fragility by Robin Diangelo - Anti-racism educator Robin Diangelo examines how white defensive responses to conversations about race and racism reinforce inequality and prevent meaningful dialogue. She then offers ways white people can work against white fragility to engage in more constructive ways.

So, You Want to Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo - This book shows people of all races how to have constructive and useful conversations about race in America. It answers questions about confronting friends and family members while providing a comprehensive education on this country's racist heritage.

Me and White Supremacy by Layla F. Saad- What started as an Instagram challenge and a downloadable anti-racist workbook encouraging people to examine their own privilege and racist behaviors now comes in book form with historical context, expanded definitions, and more resources. It has been widely recommended for white people who want to make change but don't know where to start.

White Privilege: Persistence of Racial Hierarchy in a Culture of Denial by Ninotchka McTaggart and Eileen O'Brien - The book explores the constructs of race and white privilege and then examines the ways in which white privilege manifests in economy, education, criminal justice, and especially within media and pop culture. This book is for any scholar or individual who wishes to learn more about white privilege and gain a myriad of strategies to combat injustice and cultivate anti-racist practices.

Say Her Name by Zetta Elliot and illustrated by Loveis Wise- Inspired by the #SayHerName campaign launched by the African American Policy Forum, these poems pay tribute to victims of police brutality as well as the activists insisting that Black Lives Matter. Elliott engages poets from the past two centuries to create a chorus of voices celebrating the creativity, resilience, and courage of Black women and girls.

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We Rise, We Resist, We Raise Our Voices: Words and Images of Hope by Wade Hudson (Editor) & Cheryl Willis Hudson (Editor) - Fifty of the foremost diverse children’s authors and illustrators—including Jason Reynolds, Jacqueline Woodson, and Kwame Alexander—share answers to the question, “In this divisive world, what shall we tell our children?”.

Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates - This book is written as a letter to the author's teenage son about the feelings, symbolism, and realities associated with being Black in the United States. Coates draws from an autobiographical account of his youth in Baltimore, detailing the ways in which institutions like the school, the police, and even "the streets" discipline, endanger, and threaten to disembody black men and women.

[Talking About Race](#) - This resource from the National Museum of African American History & Culture has tons of resources on talking about race, unlearning racial bias, and committing to anti-racism work.

Creating a Personal Action Plan Resources

I want to know more about...

...solidarity vs. charity:

[Solidarity not Charity: Racism in Katrina Relief Work](#), Molly McClure, 2005

[Art for Social Justice Course](#), LACMA

...where to begin:

[“Me and White Supremacy,”](#) Layla F. Saad, 2020

...why sharing videos/images of police violence against Black people is harmful:

[“How Videos of Police Brutality Traumatize African Americans and Undermine the Search for Justice”](#)

...facilitating conversations about race and racism:

[“Talking About Race”](#)

[“So, You Want to Talk About Race,”](#) Ijeoma Oluo, 2018

[“National Day of Racial Healing Conversation Guide”](#)

...talking to your kids about race:

[“Children Are Not Colorblind: How Young Children Learn Race”](#)

[“Children Are Not Colorblind: 4 Ways to Talk to Young Children About Race”](#)

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...where to find data on racial inequality:

[NAACP | Criminal Justice Fact Sheet](#)

...change that moves beyond policing as key to public safety:

[Campaign Zero \(#8CantWait\)](#)

...addressing anti-Blackness and racism in the American theater.

[#WeSeeYou](#)

...mental health resources for Black girls and women

[Therapy for Black Girls](#)

... achieving equality and social justice for Black LGBTQ+ communities

[Center for Black Equality](#)

[National Black Justice Coalition](#)

... how stress and trauma affect the body and mind, and self-care strategies for dealing with the effects of racism.

[Family Care, Community Care and Self-care Tool Kit: Healing in the Face of Cultural Trauma](#)

...companies who use prison labor.

[Calling Out Companies That Use Prison Labor](#)

...how I can contribute donations if I don't have the funds.

[Steam to donate](#)

.... where can I get tested for COVID in Los Angeles for free.

<https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>

... social media and social movements/activism

[Trayvon Martin, Racism, and Social Media](#)

[The Best and Worst Ways to Support the Protests on Social Media as A Non-Black Person](#)

... influencers to follow who speak on allyship on social media.

[@Sdireshe](#) on Instagram

[@Seerutkchawla](#) on Instagram

[@Sa.liine](#) on Instagram

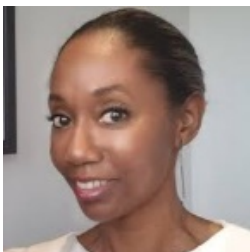
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SPEAKER BIOS



Rebecca Cooper
Project Manager, Research
GDIGM

Rebecca Cooper is the Project Manager for the research team at the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary's University and the Preschool Anchor for Agenda for Children in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was previously the Director for the Lower Ninth Ward Living Museum, a neighborhood museum and oral history archive, as well as a researcher for the Mossville Oral History Project at Louisiana State University, T. Harry Williams Center for Oral History. Her academic work focuses on the lives of Black Americans and their experiences of discrimination and incarceration. She has been featured in the *Oxford University Press Oral History Review* as well as the *Contemporary Justice Review*. As a New Orleans based spoken word artist and CUPSI coach, her work draws upon personal experience to explore themes of womanhood, queer identity, and body positivity, and has been featured on *Upworthy*, *Everyday Feminism*, and *All Def Poetry*. Her advocacy centers around Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ+ issues, and the Fat Acceptance Movement.



Joy Donnell
Chief Visionary
SUPERJOY Media

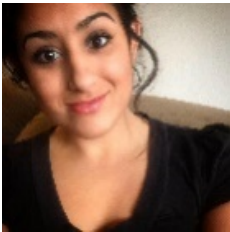
Joy Donnell is the Chief Visionary of SUPERJOY Media, a cultural and brand strategist, and author. In 2018, she established the Center for Intersectional Media and Entertainment [CIME] alongside Munika Lay and Dr. Nicole Haggard. As an international speaker, Joy shares her insight about branding, digital media and public image. Joy has guest lectured at UCLA's School of Film, Television and Digital Media on that very subject matter and speaks globally about women in media, entrepreneurship and gender parity. Her new book, *Beyond Brand*, focuses on using media and public image to build cultural legacy.



Lisa Emery
Social Media Manager
GDIGM

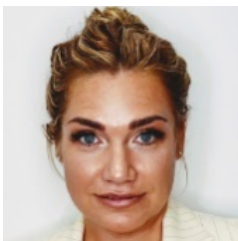
Lisa Emery is the Social Media Manager for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary's University. In addition to the Institute, Lisa work on the social media team for Lyda Hill Philanthropies on their IF/THEN initiative focused on women in STEM careers. She attended California State University, Long Beach with a major in Gender Studies, Sociology, and Queer Studies. She was a frequent guest on the KBEACH radio show *Femme Fatale* focused on feminist issues. She recently launched a pop culture and media podcast called *Ebony, Ivory and Jade*.

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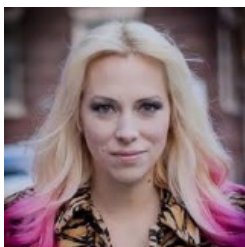
Soraya Giaccardi, M.A.
Researcher
GDIGM

Soraya Giaccardi, M.A. is a Researcher at the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary's University and a Doctoral Candidate in Developmental Psychology at the University of Michigan. As a media psychologist, Soraya's work focuses on representations in media (gender, race, sexual orientation, ability, age, and size) and how these representations contribute to real-world attitudes and behaviors. Her training in developmental psychology provides a framework for understanding the unique role of media throughout the lifespan, particularly childhood and adolescence. Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals including *Psychology of Violence*, *Media Psychology*, *Psychology of Men and Masculinity*, *Sex Roles*, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, and *Emerging Adulthood*.



Nicole Amber Haggard, Ph.D.
Director of Communications
GDIGM

Nicole Amber Haggard, Ph.D. is an award-winning instructor, speaker and published researcher with sixteen years of study contextualizing the intersection of race and gender in American culture. She is a faculty member in the Film, Media, and Social Justice program at Mount Saint Mary's University, the Director of Communications for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, and co-founder of the Center for Intersectional Media and Entertainment (CIME /see-me/). Her published work includes "Women in Hollywood: The Ongoing Fight for Equality" (2018, with Dr. Caroline Heldman), "Film and Television" entries for the Report on the Status of Women and Girls in California (2016-2019), and chapters in "Race in American Film" (ABC-CLIO, 2017), "A History of Evil in American Pop Culture" (Praeger, 2014) and "American Multicultural Studies" (Sage, 2013). Her forthcoming book is *Race, Sex, and Hollywood* (2021)



Caroline Heldman, Ph.D.
VP, Research & Insights
GDIGM

Caroline Heldman, Ph.D. is Vice President of Research & Insights for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary's University and a Professor in the department of Critical Theory & Social Justice at Occidental College, where she oversees the Intersectionality Research Initiative. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Rutgers University, and her research specializes in media, the presidency, and systems of power (race, class, gender, sexuality, age, ability, and body size). Dr. Heldman has published numerous articles and six books, including *Protest Politics in the Marketplace* (Cornell University Press, 2017) and *Women, Power, & Politics: The Fight for Gender Equality in the United States* (Oxford University Press, 2018). Her advocacy focuses on sexual violence and gender and race inequality. She worked as a community organizer in post-Katrina New Orleans where she co-founded the New Orleans Women's Shelter and the Lower Ninth Ward Living Museum. Dr. Heldman is currently curating the first Civil Rights Museum in New Orleans.

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Munika Lay, MBA
Vice President of Film
Miramax

Munika Lay, MBA is Vice President of Film at Miramax and co-founder of the Center for Intersectional Media and Entertainment (CIME /see-me/).

Her credits include “The Art of Self-Defense,” “Sabotage,” and “Recorder: The Marion Stokes Project.” Munika has previously worked as a producer and business development executive at Paramount Pictures, Warner Bros., MGM, and WME.

She earned her B.A. from Stanford and her MBA from USC’s Marshall School of Business.



Ninochka McTaggart, Ph.D.
Senior Researcher
GDIGM

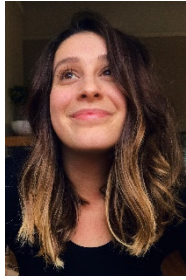
Ninochka McTaggart, Ph.D. is a Senior Researcher at the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media and she holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of California, Riverside. Her research interests include representations of racial and gender dynamics and stereotyping in mass media and popular culture. She served as guest curator of the exhibit, “Don’t Believe the Hype”: L.A. Asian Americans in Hip Hop at the Chinese American Museum in 2018. Her research has been featured on KPCC, KCET, CGTN America and in the L.A. Weekly. Dr. McTaggart has published in *Sociological Inquiry* and contributed to *Asian American Society: An Encyclopedia* (Sage, 2014) and *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Asian American Literature and Culture* (2020). She recently published a book on white privilege, racial hierarchy and intersectionality with Dr. Eileen O’Brien entitled *White Privilege: The Persistence of Racial Hierarchy in a Culture of Denial* (Cognella, 2020).



Romeo Perez
Researcher
GDIGM

Romeo Perez is a Researcher with the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media at Mount Saint Mary’s University and a recent graduate of the University of Michigan where he majored in Spanish and Psychology, with minors in Judaic Studies and LGBTQ & Sexuality Studies. Romeo has worked with several research teams on projects relating to Spanish linguistics, emotion regulation, and queer men.

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Hannah Phillips
Asst. Director of
Development
GDIGM

Hannah Phillips is the Assistant Director of Development for the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media.

Hannah has a background in Social Work and Public Policy with an intersectional focus on gendered violence. Prior to joining the Institute, she was the Senior Policy Fellow at the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Advancement at Boston City Hall, where she focused her research and policy advocacy on domestic and sexual violence and sex trafficking prevention. Her advocacy centers around gendered violence prevention and diversity, equity and inclusion in media and entertainment.