

# Abraham I. Khan

Assistant Professor

The Pennsylvania State University

African American Studies

Communication Arts & Sciences

**PhD**, University of Minnesota--Twin Cities (2010), *awarded in Communication Studies, with emphases on Rhetoric and Critical/Cultural Studies.*

Dissertation Title: Baseball in the Black Public Sphere: Curt Flood and the Disappearance of Race

Advisor: Kirt Wilson

**MA**, Florida State University (2002), *awarded in Speech Communication, emphasis on rhetoric.*

Advisor: Davis W. Houck

**BA**, Florida State University (2000), *awarded in Philosophy, with an emphasis on political philosophy. Minor in Political Science*

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University, Fall 2016-present.

Assistant Professor, University of South Florida, 2010-2016

Visiting Assistant Professor, Villanova University, 2008-2010

Visiting Instructor, Georgia State University, 2005-2008

Graduate Instructor, University of Minnesota, 2002-2005

Graduate Instructor, Florida State University, 2000-2002

## BOOK

*Curt Flood in the Media: Baseball, Race, and the Demise of the Activist Athlete* (University Press of Mississippi, 2012).

Scholarly Reviews:

*Journal of Sport History* (2012)

*Sport History Review* (2012)

*Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture* (2012)

*Journalism and Mass Communication Quarterly* (2013)

Popular Reviews:

*New York Journal of Books* (2012)

## ESSAYS

“Race and Sport: A Disciplinary History and Exhortation,” essay project for *Defining Sport Communication* (2016), edited by Andrew Billings (in press)

“Michael Sam, Jackie Robinson, and the Politics of Respectability,” in *Communication & Sport* (2015), published OnLineFirst, November 1, 2015, doi:10.1177/2167479515616407

“A Rant Good for Business: Communicative Capitalism and the Capture of Anti-Racist Resistance,” (2016) *Popular Communication* 14(1), 39-48.

“Jackie Robinson, Civic Republicanism, and Black Political Culture” in *Sport and Identity: New Agendas in Communication*, eds. Barry Brummett and Andrew Ishak (New York: Routledge), 2013.

## WORK UNDER CONSTRUCTION

“Participation and Protest: The Ethos of the Black Athlete,” essay project

“Disciplining Civil Rights: The Debate Between Jackie Robinson and Malcolm X, 1964,” essay project

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Imagining the Politics of Sport: The Uses of Curt Flood,” A Supreme Decision: The Curt Flood Symposium, featured speaker, Negro League Baseball Museum, Kansas City, MO, March 31, 2014.

“Sports and Politics: The Tradition and Today,” University of South Florida College of Arts and Sciences “Trailblazers” Series, February 20, 2014: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62vE1pxzoo4>

“Sport’s Speaking Problem,” Dream with Our Eyes Wide Open: Exploring the Black Experience in Sports and Paving New Directions, featured speaker, University of Missouri, October 5, 2013.

“Curt Flood in the Media,” University of South Florida Humanities Institute Homegrown Authors Series, September 7, 2012.

“Occupy Wall Street and the Crisis of Capitalism,” University of South Florida Office of Multicultural Affairs panel discussion on Global Crises, November 14, 2011.

“The Disciplinary History of Jackie Robinson,” Baylor University Communication Week, featured speaker, March 21, 2011.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Reconstructing Fame: Sport, Race, and Evolving Reputations*, David Ogden and Joel Nathan Rosen, eds. *Southern Communication Journal* 74.4 (2009), 427-431.

## COLLOQUIA

“Jackie Robinson and the Performance of Black Citizenship”  
presented to the USF School of the Humanities Globalization Cluster Brown Bag, February 24, 2012.

“Colorblind Imaginaries: The Disciplinary Effect of Jackie Robinson”  
presented to the University of South Florida Institute on Black Life, April 2011.

“Public Memory and the Demise of the Activist-Athlete,”  
presented to the University of Minnesota Wednesday Noon Research Meeting, February 2008.

“Philosophy and Rhetoric”  
presented to the Florida State University Research Colloquium, September 2001.

## MEDIA APPEARANCES & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Response panelist for WEDU community cinema screening of *The Black Panthers*, Tampa Public Library, February 6, 2016 & University of Tampa, February 24 2016.

Panel presenter regarding contemporary sports activism, “Icons of Controversy,” sponsored by the Florida Holocaust Museum, Tampa, FL, November 23, 2015.

Interviewee regarding Curt Flood, HuffPost Live with Marc Lamont Hill, October 6, 2014,  
<http://live.huffingtonpost.com/r/segment/legacy-of-baseball-star-curt-flood/542d983202a76048f20001ba>

Interviewee regarding Curt Flood and unionizing NCAA football players, KCTV5 evening news, Kansas City, MO, March 30, 2014.

Facilitator for post-screening discussion of *The Trials of Muhammad Ali*, WEDU, at the C. Blythe Andrews Library, Tampa, FL, February 4, 2014.

Interviewee regarding Richard Sherman and the state of black athletes, Context of White Supremacy radio program, Black Talk Radio Network, January 30, 2014.

Response panelist for WEDU community cinema screening of *More Than a Month*, at the Clearwater African American History Museum, February 21, 2012.

Response panelist for David Mamet’s *Race*, at the Jobsite Theater (Tampa, FL), May 21, 2012.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Of Immigrants & Laws: The Political Rhetoric of Marco Rubio,” Southern Colloquium on Rhetoric at the Southern States Communication Association Conference, Tampa, FL, April 2015.

“Perilous Parallel: Michael Sam, Jackie Robinson, and Respectability Politics,” Summit on Communication and Sport, Charlotte, NC, March 2015.

“The Ethos of the Activist Athlete,” Plenary Panelist, Summit on Communication and Sport, Charlotte, NC, March 2015.

“The Jackie Robinson of Homosexual Big Men’: Jason Collins as Black Citizen Subject,” Rhetoric Society of America Biennial Conference, San Antonio, TX, May 2014.

“Jackie Robinson, Civic Republicanism, and Black Political Culture,” New Agendas in Communication Conference, University of Texas, February 22, 2013.

“Five Theses on Facebook,”  
Public Sphere Preconference Seminar at the National Communication Association Convention, Orlando, FL, November 2012. (*seminar co-chair*)

“Where Are Our Activist Athletes? The Demise Genre and the Problem of Class Struggle,”  
presented at the Fifth Summit on Communication and Sport, Peoria, IL March 2012.

“Embodiment in the Public Sphere,”  
presented at the Public Sphere Preconference Seminar at the National Communication Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, November 2011. (*seminar co-chair*)

“The Performative Public Sphere: Show Us the Bodies,”  
presented at the Public Sphere Preconference Seminar at the National Communication Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, November 2010.

“Sport, Speech, and Liberalism: The Limits of Symbolic Representation and the Demise of the Activist Athlete,”  
presented at the Fourth Summit on Communication and Sport, Cleveland, OH, March 2010.

“Nostalgia and Liberalism in the Black Public Sphere: Jackie Robinson and the Crisis of the Black Athlete”  
(**>Top Paper**)  
competitively refereed paper presented National Communication Association Convention, African American Communication and Culture Division, Chicago, IL, November 2009.

“Democratizing the Classroom: Collaborative Syllabus Construction and Grade Contracts,”  
presented at the Villanova Institute of Teaching and Learning, Teaching and Learning 2009 mini-conference, May 2009.

“Identifying Dehumanization: Double-Consciousness in *The Way It Is*,”  
competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Public Address Division, San Diego, CA, November 2008.

“Curt Flood’s Public Sphere: Sarcasm, Poesis, and the Good of the Game,”  
presented at the Third Summit on Communication and Sport, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, March 2008.

“The Problem of Praxis in the Demystification of Race: Considering Intersectionality in Critical Studies,”

**(➤Top Student Paper)**

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Critical and Cultural Studies Division Chicago, IL, November 2007.

“Transforming the Field for Agency: Curt Flood, the Rhetoric of Place, and the Humanist Spirit of St. Louis,”

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Public Address Division, San Antonio, TX, November 2006.

“Corporeality in Counterpublicity: Rethinking Enactment in Public Address Scholarship,”

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Public Address Division, Boston, MA, November 2005.

“The Chicago Bears as Consumption Pleasures: Monday Night Football and the Political Economy,”

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, American Studies Division, Boston, MA, November 2005.

“Martha, Hootie, and the Media: Debating Gender Exclusion at Augusta,”

**(➤Top Student Paper)**

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Argumentation and Forensics Division, Chicago, IL, November 2004.

“Athletic Labor: Curt Flood and the Rhetoric of Place,”

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, Chicago, IL, November 2004.

“You and Me, Us’: Reconstituting African American Identity in Malcolm X’s ‘Message to the Grass Roots,’”

competitively refereed paper presented at the National Communication Association Convention, Public Address Division, Miami, FL, November 2003.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Faculty Mentor of the Year, University of South Florida Graduate Communication Association, 2016

Outstanding Faculty Partner, University of South Florida Office of Multicultural Affairs, 2013

Semi-Finalist, Mellon Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Studies, Tulane University, 2010  
(Voluntarily withdrew from consideration)

The “Old Buffalo” Award Honoring Retired Communication Studies Professors,

awarded by the University of Minnesota Communication Studies Department, awarded twice: Spring 2004 & Spring 2005, to recognize “an outstanding graduate student who has given the department and the awards committee significant evidence of the ability to become an independent scholar.”

## **GRADUATE COMMITTEES & ADVISING**

### **Doctoral Dissertation Committees**

Cody Hawley, advisor, 2014-2016  
Joanna Bartell, committee member, defended 2016  
Travis Bell, committee member, 2015-present  
Sanford Betz, committee member, 2013-present

### **Masters Thesis & Comprehensive Exam Committees**

Max Plumpton, thesis director, MA awarded 2016  
Jaime Robb, committee member, MA awarded 2016  
Camara Silver, committee member, MA awarded 2015  
Chris Holcom, committee member, MA awarded 2015  
Charles Hearn, thesis director, MA awarded 2014  
Joshua Youakim, comprehensive exam director, MA awarded 2014  
Jennifer Wells, committee member, MA awarded 2013  
Jill Potkalesky, committee member, MA awarded 2012

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

### **Assistant Professor, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL**

#### *Graduate Courses*

Ph.D Seminar: Radicalism & Critique (COM 7993)  
Citizenship, Democracy, and the Public Sphere (SPC 6934)  
Humanities Research Seminar: African American Civil Rights Discourse (HUM 6815)  
History and Theories of Communication (COM 6001)  
Survey of Social and Political Theory in Africana Studies (AFA 6120)

#### *Undergraduate Courses*

Civic Culture (IDH 3400)  
News Production and Public Culture (COM 4931)  
Contemporary Politics in Black America: The Obama Effect (AFA 4931)  
Sport and Protest (SPC 4930)  
Sport and the African American Protest Tradition (SPC 4930)  
Rhetorical Theory (SPC 3230)  
Rhetorical Analysis (SPC 3680)  
Popular Forms of Public Communication: Reading *The Wire* (SPC 3653)  
Popular Forms of Public Communication: Sport Media and Culture (SPC 3653)

#### *USF Office of Multicultural Affairs Cultural Competency Certificate*

Race/Ethnicity (Fall 2012-Fall 2013)  
Public Speaking (Fall 2012-Fall 2013)

**Visiting Assistant Professor, Villanova University, Villanova, PA**

African American Rhetoric (Com 3207)  
Argumentation & Advocacy (Com 3206)  
Theories of Rhetoric (Com 2200)  
Theories of Visual Communication & Culture (Com 2340): 2 total sections.  
Introduction to Communication Research (Com 1200): 3 total sections.  
Survey of Communication Studies (Com 1000): 3 total sections.

**Visiting Instructor, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA**

*Upper Division Speech/Rhetoric*

Rhetorical Theory and Criticism (Spch 4450)  
Visual Communication (Spch 4500)  
Persuasion (Spch 4100)  
Speech Communication Research Methods (Spch 3050)  
Business and Professional Communication (Spch 3210)

*Upper Division Media Critique*

Mass Media & Popular Culture (Jour 4810)  
Mass Media & Society (Jour 4800): 2 total sections.  
Media Communication Research (Jour 3950)

*Introductory Courses*

Media, Culture, and Society (Spch 2050): 8 total sections.  
Comm Research and Information Technology (Spch/Jour 2500): 3 total sections.  
Human Communication (Spch 1000): 6 total sections.

**Graduate Instructor, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN**

Argumentation (Comm 3615)  
Analysis of Argument (Comm 1313)  
Advanced Persuasive Speaking and Speechwriting (Comm 3605)  
Public Speaking (Comm 1101)

**Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN**

Masculinity in Film (Comm 5110), Spring 2005 [With Professor Edward Schiappa]  
Freedom of Speech (Comm 3631), Spring & Fall 2004 [With Professor Ronald Greene].  
African American Civil Rights Rhetoric (Comm 4616), Spring 2003 [With Professor Kirt Wilson].

**Graduate Instructor, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL**

Argumentation (SPC 3513), 2002  
Public Speaking (SPC 2600), 2001-2002

**RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT**

Research Assistant to Professor Ronald Greene, University of Minnesota, Summer 2003.

## **SERVICE**

### **Professional Service**

Paper Reviewer, Rhetorical and Comm Theory Division, National Communication Association, 2016  
Paper Reviewer, Communication and Sport Division, National Communication Association, 2016  
Paper Reviewer, *Journal of Communication*, 2015  
Paper Reviewer, *Communication & Sport*, 2015  
Manuscript Reviewer, University Press of Mississippi, 2012, 2014  
Ad hoc Panel Chair, Villanova University Conference on Arab and Islamic Studies, April 2009.  
Paper reviewer, African American Comm & Culture Division, NCA, 2010  
Paper reviewer, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, National Communication Association, 2010  
Paper reviewer, Critical and Cultural Studies Division, National Communication Association, 2008.

### **University Service**

Diversity Committee (alternate), University of South Florida College of Arts & Sciences, 2014-2015  
Computer Committee, University of South Florida College of Arts & Sciences, 2012-2014

### **Departmental Service**

Executive Committee, University of South Florida Communication Department, 2014-15  
Graduate Committee, University of South Florida Communication Department, 2011-12, 2013-14  
Graduate Committee, University of South Florida Africana Studies Department, 2010-present  
Faculty Evaluation Committee, University of South Florida Communication Department, 2012-2013  
Faculty Self-Assessment Committee, Villanova Communication Department self-study, 2009-10  
Graduate Student Representative, University of Minnesota Communication Department, 2003-04  
Graduate Student Orientation Committee, University of Minnesota, Summer 2004.