

Join Poughkeepsie AAUW to discuss women in Photojournalism!

‘You Are Going to Have to Delete That, Honey’: Photojournalism’s #MeToo Moment

Presented by Rachel Somerstein, PhD

March 14, 2019

7:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Poughkeepsie

When Rachel Somerstein looks at the “Year in Pictures” slideshows that commemorate the year that was, she doesn’t look at the photographs. She looks at the bylines. And this perusal yields disappointing results. Fewer than thirty percent of the photographs published by major news organizations—*Time*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *AFP*—were taken by women. Other outlets published a paltry few: six of 99 (*Sports Illustrated*), three of 50 (*NBC News*), 12 of 100 (*AP*). Some, like *Buzzfeed News*, didn’t run a single photograph taken by a woman. For Dr. Somerstein, these figures are all the more remarkable considering that women outnumber men in undergraduate and graduate photojournalism programs.



On March 14th, we will welcome Rachel Somerstein who will discuss this paradox and help us to examine gender equality issues that persist in the field of photojournalism. An assistant professor of journalism at SUNY New Paltz, Dr. Somerstein’s presentation will draw on a survey of 92 photographers and interviews with two dozen female editorial photographers to find out how gender shapes photographers’ assignments, the scenes they’re able to access, and the photographs they can take. She will also argue that the industry’s widespread sexual harassment problem is an overlooked but critically important aspect of press freedom.

Rachel Somerstein’s research on photography, collective memory, and photojournalists’ routines has appeared in *Journalism*, *International Communication Gazette*, and *Visual Communication Quarterly*, and has been featured by NPR’s *On the Media*. A former journalist, Rachel has written for *ARTnews*, *n+1*, *Women’s Review of Books*, and *WIRED*, among many other publications. She holds a Ph.D. in mass communications from Syracuse University’s Newhouse School of Public Communications and an M.F.A. in creative writing from NYU.

Dr. Somerstein spoke about media literacy at the 2018 AAUW NYS Convention. Her op-ed, which focuses on gender disparity in photojournalism, was recently published in the *Washington Post*: [What the Year in Pictures Really Showed Us](#)