

Anna Robinson-Sweet

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Ph.D. Information Studies

June 2026

Dissertation: *Abolitionist Archival Imaginaries: The World Building Praxis of Memory Work on Incarceration*

Chair: Michelle Caswell

Committee: Alisa Bierria (Gender Studies), Kelly Lytle Hernandez (History), Tonia Sutherland (Information Studies)

Graduate Certificate in Digital Humanities

June 2025

Simmons University (Boston, MA)

M.S. in Library and Information Science

May 2018

Yale University (New Haven, CT)

B.A in Art

May 2011

RESEARCH

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Robinson-Sweet, Anna. "Abolition Feminist Provenance," *Journal of Critical Library and Information Studies*, accepted for publication.

Caswell, Michelle, **Robinson-Sweet, Anna**, Ahmadbeigi, Sadaf. "Sometimes A Kitchen, Sometimes a Zoom Call": Experiences of Recording Oral Histories Online," *The Public Historian*: 2026, Vol. 48, No. 1, pp. 22-50, <https://doi.org/10.1525/tph.2026.48.1.22>.

Robinson-Sweet, Anna and Caswell, Michelle. "Paying it Forward: The Prefigurative Politics of Record Creation." *KULA: Knowledge Creation, Dissemination, and Preservation Studies*: 2025, Vol. 8, No. 1, <https://kula.uvic.ca/index.php/kula/article/view/292/513>.

Robinson-Sweet, Anna. "Caring for Archives of Incarceration: The Ethics of Carceral Collecting at University Archives." *Archivaria*: Spring 2024, 97, pp. 46-80, <https://www.archivaria.ca/index.php/archivaria/article/view/13957>.

Caswell, Michelle and **Robinson-Sweet, Anna.** "'We Bounce Off Each Other's Vibe': The Importance of Symmetrical Intersubjectivity between Interviewer and Narrator." *Oral History Review*, Spring 2024: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00940798.2024.2316904>.

Caswell, Michelle and **Robinson-Sweet, Anna.** "It Was as Much for Me as For Anybody Else:' The

Creation of Self-Validating Records.” *Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies*: 2023, Vol 10, No. 1, <https://elischolar.library.yale.edu/jcas/vol10/iss1/10/>.

Robinson-Sweet, Anna. “Ancestry.com’s Race Stories: Examining Whiteness on the Genealogy Web.” *The International Journal of Information, Diversity, & Inclusion*: 2021, Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 79-96, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48645296>.

Robinson-Sweet, Anna. “Truth and Reconciliation: Archivists as Reparations Activists.” *The American Archivist*: Spring/Summer 2018, Vol. 81, No. 1, pp. 23-37, <https://doi.org/10.17723/0360-9081-81.1.23>.

White Papers & Reports

Caswell, Michelle; Vo Dang, Thuy; Sutherland, Tonia; **Robinson-Sweet, Anna**; Epps, James. “Archiving the Arts: Preserving Our Past, Cultivating Our Future.” *South Asian American Digital Archive*: 2026. <https://www.saada.org/explore/programs/archiving-the-arts/research>

Caswell, Michelle; Sutherland, Tonia; **Robinson-Sweet, Anna**; Epps, James. “No More Basements:’ A Qualitative Report on BIPOC-Centered Arts Organizations’ Archival Practices and Needs.” *South Asian American Digital Archive*: 2024. <https://spotlight.saada.org/collections/publications/products/no-more-basements>

Johnson, Carmen; Keel, Terence; Li, Alexander; **Robinson-Sweet, Anna**; Rossi, Elizabeth; Sosa, Grace; Walters, Jonah. “In-Custody Deaths in Ten Maryland Detention Centers, 2008-2019.” *BioCritical Studies Lab*: 2023. <https://ucla.app.box.com/s/z5wuokjrcegd2gvrx2hk3f7tbi938k47>

Caswell, Michelle; Douglas, Jennifer; Chow, June; Bradshaw, Rachael; Mallick, Samip; Karthikeyan, Nivetha; Jules, Bergis; Solis, Gabriel; Field, Jane; Robinson, Morris Dino; Gonzales, Patrisia; Rodriguez, Katheryn Kat; Saldaña Perez, Joel A.; **Robinson-Sweet, Anna.** “‘Come Correct or Don’t Come at All:’ Building More Equitable Relationships Between Archival Studies Scholars and Community Archives.” *UCLA*: 2021. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/7v00k2qz>

Public Writing

Robinson-Sweet, Anna. “We’re Coming for Your Records.” *Acid Free*: 2021, Issue 12. <http://www.laacollective.org/work/were-coming-for-your-records>

Robinson-Sweet, Anna. “We Keep Us Safe.” *Log*: Summer 2020, Issue 49.

HONORS & AWARDS

Oral History Association Article Award	2026
UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy Doctoral Award - \$10,000	2026
UCLA Dissertation Year Award - \$30,000	2025
Association of Canadian Archivists W. Kaye Lamb Prize - \$150	2025

UCLA Bedari Kindness Institute Graduate Fellow - \$4,000	2025
UCLA Center for the Study of Women Jean Stone Dissertation Research Award - \$4,000	2024
ALISE Bohdan S. Wymar Research Paper Competition Award	2023
UCLA Center for the Study of Women Travel Grant - \$1,000	2023 & 2025
UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award - \$6,000	2023
Society of American Archivists Theodore Calvin Pease Award - \$250	2017

PRESENTATIONS

Selected Conference Presentations (9 of 13)

“Pursuing Archives in Critical Times: A Roundtable with the Next Generation of AERI” (plenary panel), Archival Education and Research Initiative, July 22, 2026.

“How Does That Help Us Listen? Unlearning ‘Hungry Listening’ in the Archives” (plenary panel), Association of Canadian Archivists, June 9, 2026.

“Abolitionist Archival Imaginaries: Visions of Post-Carceral Futures from the Archive,” American Studies Association, November 20, 2025.

“Abolition Feminist Ethics and Archives of Incarceration,” Human Rights Archives and the Problems of Provenance, June 25, 2025

“Critical and Creative Applications of Data Centric Research: Critical Data Lab Projects in Progress Conversation,” UC Data Love Week, February 11, 2025.

“Imagining Alternatives to the Carceral State: Creating Community Informed Archives Documenting Mass Incarceration,” American Studies Association, November 14, 2024.

“Exploring Approaches to Archiving Incarceration at University Archives,” Archival Education and Research Initiative, June 22, 2023.

“Practicing Research Reciprocity,” iConference, March 27, 2023.

“How Does it Feel to Be Digitally Archived?,” Critical Digital Humanities International Conference, September 30, 2022.

Invited Talks

“Abolitionist Archival Imaginaries,” UCLA Department of Information Studies Colloquium, January 8, 2026

“Liberatory Community Archives,” Rikers Public Memory Project, November 10, 2025

“Practicing Research Reciprocity with Community Archives,” University of California, Santa Barbara, February 20, 2025

“Community Archives and Participatory Action Research: Reports from the Virtual Belonging Project,” UCLA School of Education and Information Studies Community Engaged Scholarship Series, October 22, 2024.

“Truth and Reconciliation: Archivists as Reparations Activists,” Society of American Archivists Committee on Ethics and Professional Conduct, April 30, 2021.

“Record-making for Reparation: A Call to Action in the Archive,” Northeastern University Law School’s Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Project, November 20, 2019.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

South Asian American Digital Archive

Contract Researcher 2023-2026

- Researcher on a grant-funded project about archiving the history of BIPOC arts organizations
- Conduct interviews with directors and other representatives from BIPOC arts organizations
- Co-author reports that inform fellowship program for archiving South Asian arts organizations’ materials

UCLA DataX

Graduate Student Researcher 2025-2026

- Translate qualitative interview transcripts from Spanish to English
- Edit research articles on Latinx communities’ use of technology

UCLA Community Archives Lab

Graduate Student Researcher 2021-2025

- Researcher for participatory-action research projects with community archives
- Lead collection of qualitative research data by conducting over 30 interviews with community members who have been involved in community archives
- Co-authored four peer-reviewed articles, one book chapter, and two white papers reporting on research findings; presented at numerous conferences and meetings with community partners
- Wrote a public-facing toolkit on how to start a peer-to-peer oral history project

UCLA BioCritical Studies Lab

Graduate Student Researcher 2022-2023

- Managed freedom of information requests for records related to in-custody jail deaths
- Reconciled data to track in-custody jail deaths and records related to these cases
- Created data visualizations of in-custody deaths in Maryland jails for inclusion in a report published by the lab and community partners

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UCLA Department of Information Studies

Special Reader (Teaching Assistant for graduate-level courses)

- Values and Communities in Information Professions Spring 2025
- Systems and Infrastructures Winter 2024
- Community-Based Archiving Spring 2022

UCLA Community Engagement and Social Change Program

Teaching Associate

- Engaging Los Angeles Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025

UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Labor and Social Movements in Los Angeles Spring 2024
- Race, Class, and Social Justice Fall 2023

Guest Lectures

“Ethics and Approaches for Stewarding Archives of State Violence in the U.S.,” Simmons University, International Perspectives on Managing Archives and Records seminar, October 2026

“Data Visualization Research Project from Design to Publication,” UCLA, Information Visualization seminar, October 2025

“The Abolitionist Archive,” UCLA, Critical Library and Information Studies seminar, March 2024

“Introduction to Community Archives,” Occidental College, first year writing seminar, November 2023

“Truth and Reconciliation: Archivists as Reparations Activists,” Queens College CUNY, Introduction to Archival Studies seminar, March 2021

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The New School Archives & Special Collections

Associate Archivist

2018-2021

- Managed the processing of digital collections, personal papers, and institutional collections
- Created workflows for processing, reference, and cataloging
- Managed migration of collections database to ArchivesSpace
- Digitized and cataloged material on digital collections platform
- Planned oral history projects, recruited participants, conducted interviews, and
- Developed lesson plans for course visits to the Archives and led instruction

Weeksville Heritage Center

Oral History Fellow

2017

- Conducted oral history interviews with community members about school segregation
- Processed oral history interviews and created collection finding aids
- Established procedures for uploading oral history collections to Omeka.net

Wave Hill

Curatorial Assistant

2012–2014

- Member of small curatorial team at cultural center in the Bronx, New York
- Developed and led exhibition tours
- Selected artists and artworks for inclusion in group exhibitions, served on review committees for residencies and fellowships
- Prepared exhibition catalogues, wall text, and website copy
- Served as registrar for exhibitions

UNITE Here Local 33

Organizer

2009–2012

- Managed field campaigns to turn out members for local elections
- Identified and recruited rank and file members for leadership positions
- Organized student support for Unite HERE campaign against anti-union hotel companies

SERVICE

Humanities Action Lab, States of Incarceration advisory group member

2024-present

Prison Library Support Network, Reference Project volunteer

2020-present

Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies, manuscript reviewer

2018-present

KULA, manuscript reviewer

2025-present

Archives and Records, manuscript reviewer

2025-present

Archival Education and Research Initiative, program committee member

2021–2022

Society of American Archivists, *American Archivist* editor search committee

2020

New England Archivists, Diversity and Inclusion Committee member

2017–2018