

Susan Walker

Associate Professor, Journalism Department  
Boston University

Documentary Film-maker & TV News Producer

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EDUCATION	M.A., BOSTON UNIVERSITY, HISTORY	2009
	B.A., BROWN UNIVERSITY, ENGLISH	1979

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS:

2001 - Present Associate Professor of Journalism, College of Communication

1998 - 2001 Lecturer in Broadcast Journalism

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS:

Sept.'17- present- General Education Committee, reviewing courses for new BU HUB curriculum. Appointed by the Provost Jean Morrison and reporting to the Associate Provost Beth Loiseaux

January - June 2015 - Interim Chair of the Journalism Department

Lead a journalism program with more than 20 faculty members, hundreds of undergraduate majors and more than thirty graduate students. Reversed a downward trend in graduate enrollment, led an initiative to create a more relevant, multimedia and digital-first curriculum. Initiated the department's accreditation review by the ACEJMC as well as managed technology updates, budgets, hiring, adjunct unionization vote and special events. Also continue to teach, work on a multimedia book, and present at academic and professional conferences.

2010 - 2015 Broadcast Journalism Program Director

Managed a TV & radio journalism program involving more than a hundred undergraduate and graduate students. Program involves three full-time faculty and several adjunct lecturers. Taught video journalism, writing and newscast production classes, hired adjuncts and teaching assistants, ran the grad-

uate admissions and coordinated student awards for the largest journalism program within the College of Communication at BU.

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

SUSAN WALKER/TECKNOW PRODUCTIONS 1997 - PRESENT

Boston, Massachusetts

Founder and Executive Producer

Producer/Author of a multimedia, digital book, *First Jet Crashes*, about the world's first passenger jet, the Comet. Project in progress.

Documentary producer of *A Tale of Two Teens*, about AIDS among young girls in South Africa, as seen through the eyes of an American and a South African girls. Narrated by an AIDS survivor, the documentary includes the music of the Dave Matthews Band and the resilient people of the KwaZulu Natal Province. Currently distributed, along with a curriculum guide, to high schools and colleges through Cinema Guild as well as Amazon.com. <http://ataleoftwoteens.org>

Produced summary conference videos for the boards of companies such as Hewlett-Packard and Nokia.

Created, produced and marketed two children's interactive educational television pilots, *Kidnet Quest* and *What's New, Marty and Lou?*. T

WHDH TV, (Boston, MA), Special Projects Producer, 1985 – 1990

WCVB TV ( Needham, MA), 11 PM Newscast Producer, 1982- 1985

(The ABC affiliate was recognized in 1984 as "the best local station in the country" by *The New York Times*).

*KYW TV*, (Philadelphia, PA), Newscast Producer and News Writer, 1980- 1982

*WBZ TV* ( Boston, MA), News Writer and Trainee in the Westinghouse Broadcasting Management Training Program , 1977 - 1980

#### PROFESSIONAL & SCHOLARLY INTERESTS:

*First Jet Crashes* is about the adventurous launch and devastating crashes of the Comet, the world's first passenger jet, launched by the British during the 1950s. *First Jet Crashes* will be a book as well as a multimedia experience, using video clips, hyper-links and interactive features as well as text. Distributed on I-pads and mobile devices, this account provides a reading experience about the first jet-setters as well as videos, photographs, interactive quizzes and hyperlinks. *First Jet Crashes* uses the game-changing technology of the 21st century to describe the technological breakthrough of the 20th century- the launch of the passenger jet and the start of international jet travel, credited as one of the transforming industries of the modern age.

My interest is in the new and the old; finding neglected news stories, whether in the present or the past, and reporting these stories using different formats whether read or seen on computers, mobile devices or television. These are the new ways of reporting and remembering in the digital age. My hope is that this approach will increase the audience for critically important news by making these stories more accessible to a public interested in news no longer limited by text or national borders.

#### MAJOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Taught three courses each fall and spring semester at Boston University during the last decade. I've taught both graduates and undergraduates majoring in broadcast journalism as well as non-majors.

Courses taught include JO 250 news writing, JO 351 broadcast news writing, JO 451 & JO 736 television newscast production, JO 431 & JO 733 enterprise (long-form) reporting, JO 955 graduate thesis project, an interdisciplinary course - JO 534 broadcast news for non-majors and JO 550 advanced online journalism, a course which I helped create and now update regularly.

My enrollment is typically as many as a hundred students every year, generating a tuition revenue of half a million dollars annually.

Initiated and managed "Covering the London Olympics"-a student journalist internship program when fourteen students covered New England athletes for several news organizations and a web site attracting thirty thousand views.

Conducted multimedia workshops for visiting journalists from Vietnam, the Middle East, Portugal as well as fellows from the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University.

Organized and taught a summer multimedia boot camp for BU journalism faculty.

Meet regularly with thirty assigned advisees, including supervising thesis projects for broadcast journalism graduate students.

Supervise students covering major events such as the New Hampshire Presidential primary, the Boston Marathon and state elections. Student work is broadcast on local television, radio and Web outlets.

Launched a professional partnership with Hearst Argyle Television and co-taught a course in which students covered the 2004 Democratic Conven-

tion in Boston for several TV stations located in Monterey, California to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Planning to teach and supervise students who will be correspondents for local news Web sites, covering New England athletes competing in the 2012 London Olympics. Professional partners publishing student work include Boston.com, New England Cable News, WBUR and Gatehouse Media newspapers.

Write at least thirty student recommendation letters every year for internships, term abroad programs, graduate schools and jobs.

#### PROFESSIONAL GROUPS:

Online News Association conference, 2011, Admissions and Programming Committees, Helped run a newsroom staffed by students and sponsored by Google.

Awards coordinator for BU students-Society of Professional Journalists, New England Associated Press and New England Emmy awards.

New Media Consortium, 2007 - 2010, Director

Member of the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists

Programming chair, MIT Faculty Club, Exchange Series, 1985 - 1992

Regional chair of the Brown Alumni Schools Committee, 2002 - 2006

Participant in mentoring program Women's Launch Pad, 2006-2008

#### RECENT AND CURRENT BOSTON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE SERVICE:

Member of Journalism Department Curriculum Committee

Member of Appointments, Promotion and Tenure committee at the BU's College of Communication 2010 - Present

Member of the ad hoc task force which helped write a report recommending updating journalism curricula with more multimedia courses to address industry changes. 2009-2010.

Appointed by a faculty vote to the 2010 search committee for the new journalism department chair.

Helped rewrite the academic code and adjudicate student cases as member of the Academic Affairs committee at the College of Communication, 2002 - 2006.

Member of 2003 search committee for a journalism faculty member to head the State House program

Member of the 2004 search committee for a Film/TV faculty member

Started a monthly speaker series "Third Thursday", featuring professors presenting their professional work including poetry, book readings and documentary screenings, 2005

Shot and edited a DVD "Today's Faculty for Tomorrow's Journalists", distributed to prospective students and shown at open house events. 2003

## FILMOGRAPHY

*A Tale of Two Teens* - a 36 minute documentary produced by Susan Walker and filmed and edited by BU Film/TV professor Geoff Poister. The documentary is shown at high schools and universities throughout the world and is the official selection of several international film festivals. The documentary features the music of The Dave Matthews Band and U2 and includes a companion curriculum guide authored by Susan Walker and doctors and counselors at the HIV AIDS Care Center at Boston Medical Center. The film is distributed by Cinema Guild, Amazon and MTV. Susan Walker also designed a Web site for the film and the campaign against AIDS. <http://ataleoftwoteens.org> 2005

*What Takes a Village* - a video documenting the partnership between a New England church and a remote parish in the KwaZulu Natal Province- the hotspot of the AIDS pandemic. Director, Videographer and Editor, 2004.

*What's New Marty & Lou?* - Aimed at a children's audience, this Web/TV pilot is about where things come from (e.g. apples, dreams and chocolate). The pilot was named best new children's program at the National Association of Television Programming. Stations in more than 80 percent of the television markets in America signed distribution agreements. Co-Producer. 1996

*Kidnet Quest* - Think -You Tube, 10 years earlier; this is a news magazine, asking for student-submitted videos submitted through the Internet, aimed at 'tweeners, interested in finding out what's hot and what's not. Co-Producer, 1996.

*Expecting a Miracle*: Shown at a Congressional hearing, this investigative TV series revealed the deceptive ads and medical mishaps of the under-regulated test tube baby clinic industry in Massachusetts. Broadcast on WHDH TV News, Producer, 1989.

*The Strongest Link*: A television report on how AIDS is moving from the city of Boston to its bucolic suburbs. WHDH TV. 1989.

*Problem Children*: A health series showing video of the behavior of emotionally disturbed children and interviews with experts about how to identify issues earlier in childhood. WHDH, Producer, 1988.

*Net Results*: An investigative series about dangerous seafood and the lack of adequate inspection in Massachusetts. WHDH 1989

*Project Radon*: A news-making series revealing that more than one quarter of the New England homes surveyed by the investigative unit contained radon equal to the health risks of smoking a half a pack of cigarettes a day. The broadcast prompted 13 thousand letters and a state commission was formed. The series won a re-

gional Emmy, the International Film & TV and Associated Press awards for best news series. Producer. 1986

*Cocaine Pipeline*: A look at how the textile mill community of Central Falls, Rhode Island turned into a major cocaine pipeline. Story picked up in The Boston Globe and the Boston Herald. Broadcast WCVB TV 1985.

*Save Our Shores*: A news report detailing how seawalls, jetties and waterfront development actually contribute to, rather than protect against, coastal erosion in New England. Producer. WCVB TV 1984.

*Family Works*: A series about traditional, non-traditional, blended and two-income families. WCVB TV Associate Producer 1984.

*Rags to Riches*: A feature series about the working class roots and later luxurious lifestyles of successful entrepreneurs. WCVB. Producer 1984.

*Men Who Rape*: A series about why sex offenders repeat their crimes. Interviews with men who were part of a controversial talk therapy program inside a maximum security Connecticut prison. Broadcast on ABC News *Good Morning America* and KYW TV, Philadelphia, 1980. Won several awards.

*Danger in our Backyard*: A news series investigating the dangerous placement of LNG terminals near populated neighborhoods. WBZ TV 1979.

*Alcoholism on the Cape* - Seasonal resort beach communities also are home to some of the highest rates of alcoholism in the state. WBZ TV Associate Producer 1977.

*Tribe and Territory*: Pioneering land claims suits by Wampanoag Indian tribe in Mashpee is the news first reported in-depth by this series. WBZ TV Associate Producer 1977.

*On the Set of Jaws*; A (then) unknown director Steven Spielberg and crew invade Martha's Vineyard, making the film *Jaws* and parking a huge, plastic shark on the Edgartown's public landing. Associate Producer 1977.

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

*First Jet Crashes; The Take-Off and Fall of the World's First Passenger Jet*:

The article is about the celebrated launch and subsequent grounding of BOAC's Comet. The Comet is the first passenger jet which, along with the first jet engine are British inventions, but American success stories. The article draws the cultural contest between the British nation struggling to emerge from the devastation of World War II, sharing its superior technology with its former Ally, now 20th century competitor, America. This article was reviewed by faculty members of Boston University's history department and accepted as a thesis for completion of a master's degree. Also submitted to the *Journal of the History of Technology*. 2009.

*Integrating Professional Partnerships into Multimedia Journalism Classes*:

How do you work with a newspaper journalist on deadline if you're a graduate student? How do you use photographs, an online tip box to solve one of the world's biggest art thefts? These are the questions addressed in an article about BU journalism students teaming up with the FBI and the Boston Herald to produce a multimedia Web site designed to crack the notorious art theft from the Isabella Stewart

Gardner Museum in Boston. Published in *The Horizon Report 2010*, New Media Consortium.

## ARTICLES & REVIEWS

Book review- De Havilland Comet 1949-97, June 2017 issue of *Aerospace/The Aeronautical Journal*, published by the National Aerospace Library in Britain

Book review- *Broadcast News Writing, Reporting and Producing* by Frank Barnas and Ted White, 5th Edition, Focal Press. (May, 2011).

Book review - *Videojournalism* by Ken Kobre, Elsevier Press (May, 2011)

*It Can Take a Bar Mitzvah to Seed the Next Family Reunion*  
The Boston Globe, Travel Section, (Sept. 9,2007): M3

*Accidental Walker Sees Another Side of Los Angeles*  
The Boston Globe, Travel Section, ( July 8, 2007): M10

## AWARDS

Emmy Award for *Project Radon* , 1986.

International Film & TV award for *Project Radon*, 1986.

Associated Press award for *Project Radon*, 1986.

Media Review's top choice for classroom materials: *A Tale of Two Teens*, 2007  
"Without a doubt, the most powerful health education film I've shown my students in a decade of teaching."

*A Tale of Two Teens* -Amnesty International Film Festival, Amsterdam, 2005, Official Selection

*A Tale of Two Teens* - Kaiser Foundation finalist.

Zimbabwe Film Festival, Zimbabwe, 2005, Winner

Hot Docs, Amsterdam, 2005, Official Selection

Women's Film Festival, Seoul, South Korea, Official Selection

New Zealand Documentary Channel, Official Selection

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS;

" Renoir, Art Heist, Cold Case, Hot Web Site"

Presentation, including a Web documentary, made at the New Media Consortium Conference hosted by the University of Southern California, June, 2010. Hundreds of educators learned how to partner students with professional news organizations as class assignments. Example provided was the multimedia project developed by BU students, the FBI and the Boston Herald newspaper. Subject- The biggest art heist in history happening at the local Boston mansion/museum of Isabella Stewart Gardner. Multimedia web site: <http://vimeo.com/10782333>

*A Tale of Two Teens*; documentary screening at Boston University's student union, Boston Medical Center as well as local high school health classes throughout America and South Africa.

World AIDS Day screening of *A Tale of Two Teens* at the following universities and colleges:

Lehigh University

Ithaca College

University of North Carolina- Charlotte

California State University- San Marcos

Boston University- College of Communication and School of Public Health

Portland (Oregon) State University

*A Tale of Two Teens* was also presented at BU's African Presidential Archives Research Center and endorsed by director Reverend Charles Stith.

*A Tale of Two Teens* is the subject of a WCVB TV's program *Cityline*, 2005.

Boston University's Global Health Initiative screened *A Tale of Two Teens* and producer Susan Walker spoke to students during World AIDS Day, 2007.

Presentation about the first jet engine- Boston University History Department, 2007.

Presentation about the first passenger jet, BU's British program in London, 2009.

#### INTERVIEWS:

The Boston Globe - Regular interviews with media reporter Johnny Diaz and others about developments in local television and the journalism industry.

Boston Herald - Quoted regularly as a spokesperson for the changes in broadcast and online journalism as well as issues of journalism education.

Yankee Magazine, October, 2004.

Good Housekeeping magazine, regular contributor to an etiquette column.

Comcast Television - Appeared as journalism advocate.

Channel 5/WCVB TV - Spoke about the new face of AIDS- young women during *Cityline* public affairs program broadcast during the week of World AIDS Day.

Interview and profile story about *A Tale of Two Teens* - *Imagine* magazine, 2004.

#### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

Campus liaison for New Media Consortium <http://nmc.org>

Consultant to BUTV - student managed cable TV channel.



Present a television journalism workshop to the annual conference of high school editors in New England. June, 2011

Organize a live shot boot camp, twice a year, using a professional satellite truck, for BU students to learn how to report a breaking news story on the spot.

Teach a news writing workshop to fifth graders in Marblehead schools.

Coordinate interviews and advice for high school students on the North Shore of Boston as the regional chair of the Brown (University) Alumni Schools Committee.

Lead an annual workshop on what it takes to be a television journalist to high school students and teachers attending the New England Scholastic Press Association's conference at Boston University.

INTERESTS:

Married with three grown children, including boy-girl twins

Play tennis, skis, bikes, hikes and travels