

Anna Robinson-Sweet

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Ph.D. Information Studies

expected June 2026

Dissertation: *Abolitionist Archival Imaginaries: An Ethnographic Study of Memory Projects 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

Caswell, Michelle; **Robinson-Sweet, Anna**; Ahmadbeigi, Sadaf. "Sometimes A Kitchen, Sometimes a Zoom Call": Experiences of Recording Oral Histories Online," *The Public Historian* (forthcoming)

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; 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/z5wuokjrcegd2gvr2hk3f7tbi938k47>

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/7vook2qz>

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

UCLA Dissertation Year Award	2025
Association of Canadian Archivists W. Kaye Lamb Prize	2025
UCLA Bedari Kindness Institute Graduate Fellow	2025
UCLA Center for the Study of Women Jean Stone Dissertation Research Award	2024
ALISE Bohdan S. Wynar Research Paper Competition Award	2023
UCLA Center for the Study of Women Travel Grant	2023 & 2025
UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Award	2023
Society of American Archivists Theodore Calvin Pease Award	2017

PRESENTATIONS

Selected Conference Presentations (6 of 9)

“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

“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

UCLA Community Archives Lab

Graduate Student Researcher, Fall 2021-present

- Researcher for participatory-action research projects with by community archives
- Lead collection of qualitative research data by conducting over 50 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, Fall 2022-Summer 2023

- Managed freedom of information requests for records related to in-custody jail deaths in California, Illinois, and Maryland, attend follow-up meetings with public records officers
- 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)

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| • 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

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| • Engaging Los Angeles | Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Spring 2025 |
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UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment

Teaching Assistant

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

Guest Lectures

“The Abolitionist Archive,” UCLA, Michelle Caswell’s Critical Library and Information Studies seminar, March 2024

“Introduction to Community Archives,” Occidental College, Daryl Barker’s first year writing seminar, November 2023

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

SERVICE

Humanities Action Lab, States of Incarceration advisory group member	2024-present
Prison Library Support Network, Reference Project volunteer & coordinator	2020-present
LA Street Care, mutual aid organizer	2024-present
Books Beyond Bars at UCLA, member	2023-present
<i>Journal of Contemporary Archival Studies</i> , manuscript reviewer	2018-present
Archival Education and Research Initiative, program committee member	2021-2022
Society of American Archivists, <i>American Archivist</i> editor search committee	2020
New England Archivists, Diversity and Inclusion Committee member	2017-2018