

ALEXA CAPELOTO

524 W. 59th Street, 7th Floor • New York, NY 10019 • 646.557.4546 • acapeloto@jjay.cuny.edu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2009-present

Associate Professor, English Department, John Jay College of Criminal Justice/CUNY

- Teach undergraduate courses in journalism, media literacy, composition and literature.
- Co-created and now co-coordinate the Digital Media and Journalism program.
- Serve as faculty adviser for the student news organization, *The John Jay Sentinel*.

2007-2009

Adjunct Instructor, National University, San Diego campus

- Taught undergraduate and graduate journalism courses, both online and in class.

2005-2009

Enterprise Editor, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

- Coordinated enterprise coverage, including investigations, series and A1 news.
- Supervised four reporters, including the metro columnist.

East County Editor, *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

- Ran the East County bureau in El Cajon, Calif.
- Supervised four reporters and one news assistant.

2000-2005

Assistant Metro Editor, *The Detroit Free Press*

- Supervised four reporters in the metro desk's bureau in Macomb County, Michigan's fastest growing county at the time.
- Oversaw the launch of three weekly hyper-local community inserts in Macomb County.

Staff Writer, Metro Desk, *The Detroit Free Press*

- Covered religion, crime and Macomb County government, and broke stories later covered by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post* and other news outlets.

EDUCATION

Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University

Degree: Master of Science, 2000

Master's Thesis: "Shame and Shalom Bayit: Confronting Domestic Violence in Brooklyn's Orthodox Jewish Community"

University of California at Berkeley

Degree: Bachelor of Arts, with high honors, 1999

Honors Thesis: "Pro/Creative: The Issue of Authorship in Milton's Parthenogenetic *Paradise*"

HONORS & AWARDS

PSC-CUNY Research Award, 2022-23.

- Granted for continuing research of university foundations and FOI laws.

John Jay College Distinguished Faculty Service to Students Award, April 2022.

- In recognition of mentorship and guidance of student journalists.

Second place, National Freedom of Information Coalition FOI research competition, for “The Effects and Efficacy of Online Public Records Request Portals,” April 2019.

- Accompanied by a \$300 prize.

Top Debut Faculty Paper, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Law and Policy Division, for “Private Status, Public Ties: University Foundations and Freedom of Information Laws,” May 2014.

- Awarded to first-time submitters, accompanied by \$150 and conference registration.

Top Faculty Paper, AEJMC Law and Policy Division, for “Private Status, Public Ties: University Foundations and Freedom of Information Laws,” May 2014.

PSC-CUNY Research Award, 2013-14.

- Granted for continuing research in considerations around FOI legislation and case law.

John Jay College Distinguished Faculty Service to Students Award, April 2013.

CUNY Faculty Fellowship Publication Program, Spring 2013.

Dart Academic Fellowship, Summer 2012.

- Bestowed by the Dart Center, along with a \$500 grant for curriculum development.

PSC-CUNY Research Award, 2010-11.

- Granted for research in the intersection between FOI rights and privatization.

“U-Team” award for Journalistic Excellence, September 2007.

- For a Metro/Sports special report about embezzlement in school and youth sports organizations.

Society of Professional Journalists Awards, Metro Detroit chapter, 2003

- Named one of three finalists for Young Journalist of 2002.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer reviewed/scholarly:

(2019, September). Agency Perspectives on Online Public Records Portals. *The Journal of Civic Information*. 1:1 (Fall 2019): 61-76.

(2015, October). A Case for Placing Public-University Foundations Under the Existing Oversight Regime of Freedom of Information Laws. *Communication Law and Policy*. 20:4 (Fall 2015): 1-32.

(2015, March). Private Status, Public Ties: University Foundations and Freedom of Information Laws. *Quinnipiac Law Review*. 33:2 (Spring 2015): 339-368.

(2014, January). Transparency on Trial: A Legal Review of Public Information Access in the Face of Privatization. *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*. 13:1 (Winter 2014): 19-42.

(2012, September). Caught in the Balance: Information Access in an Era of Privatized Public Higher Education. *College Media Review*, refereed section, Fall 2012.

Journalistic:

(2020, January 10). Why Some Public Universities Get to Keep Their Donors Secret. *The Conversation*. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/why-some-public-universities-get-to-keep-their-donors-secret-129309>

(2019, February 21). Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press Updates Its One-Stop Shop for Public Records Law, Reporter's Privilege. *Columbia Journalism Review*. Retrieved from https://www.cjr.org/united_states_project/open-government-guide-rcfp.php

(2018, May 25). What's Wrong With Secret Donor Agreements Like the Ones George Mason University Inked With the Koch Brothers. *The Conversation*. Retrieved from <https://theconversation.com/whats-wrong-with-secret-donor-agreements-like-the-ones-george-mason-university-inked-with-the-kochs-96180>

(2015, January 29). Let's Bring Sunshine Into Private Prisons. *The Crime Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.thecrimereport.org/viewpoints/2015-01-lets-bring-sunshine-into-private-prisons>

(2014, November 26). Forget the FOIA Request: Cities, States Open Data Portals. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2014/11/forget-the-foia-request-cities-states-open-data-portals/>

(2014, October 27). This Open-Source App Could Make the FOI Process Less Terrible. *Columbia Journalism Review*. Retrieved from http://www.cjr.org/united_states_project/recordtrac_making_the_foia_process_less_terrible.php?page=all

(2013, August 20). Outsourcing Journalism 101: NewsU's Experiment Falts, But Signals a Change. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2013/08/outsourcing-journalism-101-an-early-experiment-falts-but-signals-change>

(2013, January 22). Guns, the Press and Privacy: Who Draws the Line? *The Crime Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.thecrimereport.org/viewpoints/2013-01-guns-the-press--privacy-who-draws-the-line>

(2012, December 20). Transitioning from the Professional Newsroom to the College Newsroom. *College Media Review*, non-refereed section. Retrieved from <http://cmreview.org/transitioning-from-the-professional-newsroom-to-the-college-newsroom/>

(2012, June 29). Lessons of the Internet Age: Think Before Writing. *The Crime Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/inside-criminal-justice/2012-06-lessons-of-the-internet-age-think-before-writing>.

(2012, April 23). A Progress Report on a College Paper's Pioneering Metered Pay Wall. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2012/04/a-progress-report-on-a-college-papers-pioneering-metered-pay-wall114.html>.

(2012, January 2). When Facebook Indiscretions Reveal Ugly Truths. *The Crime Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.thecrimereport.org/news/articles/2012-01-when-facebook-indiscretions-reveal-ugly-truths>.

(2011, November 16). In Journalism Class, Think Visceral. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2011/11/in-journalism-class-think-visceral320.html>.

w/ Harner, D. (2011, October 10). Students Go Old School, Create Newspaper with Typewriters, Xactos, Film Cameras. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2011/10/students-go-old-school-create-newspaper-with-typewriters-xactos-film-cameras283.html>.

(2011, August 25). How e-Textbooks, Online Modules Could Keep Journalism Education Current. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2011/08/how-e-textbooks-online-modules-could-keep-journalism-education-current237.html>.

(2011, August 11). Journalism Textbooks Suffer Slow Path to Publication. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2011/08/journalism-textbooks-suffer-slow-path-to-publication223.html>.

w/ Harner, D. (2011, July 11). College Students Miss the Journalistic Potential of Social Media. *PBS MediaShift*. Retrieved from <http://www.pbs.org/mediashift/2011/07/college-students-miss-the-journalistic-potential-of-social-media192.html>.

PRESENTATIONS & APPEARANCES

Interviewed by The Center for Investigative Reporting, Chicago Public Radio, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *The New Haven Register*, *Florida Trend* magazine, *The Arkansas-Democrat Gazette*, *The Buffalo News* and other news outlets regarding the legal status of university-affiliated foundations vis-à-vis public-records laws.

Featured guest, "Public, Not Public," Episode 7 of the investigative podcast series "Why Don't We Know," The Brechner Center for Freedom of Information, Sep. 21, 2020.

“Balancing Editorial Freedom and Academic Oversight,” Fall 2019 National College Media Conference, Washington, DC, Nov. 1, 2019.

Panel member, “Online Public Records Portals and the Future of FOI Administration,” 2019 FOI Summit, Dallas, Tex., April 12, 2019.

On-air guest, “The Attitude with Arnie Arneson,” WNHN FM 94.7, to discuss the donor agreements between George Mason University and the Koch Foundation, May 31, 2018.

“News Literacy Matters,” Teaching and Learning Center at John Jay College, April 27, 2017.

Panel member, “Public Universities and the Public’s Right to Know,” WNPR’s “Where We Live” broadcast. Connecticut Public Radio and Connecticut Public Television, March 22, 2016.

“Private Status, Public Ties: University Foundations and Freedom of Information Laws.” Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference, Montreal, Aug. 8, 2014.

“Research Spotlight: The Legal Status of University Foundations,” and “Policing Privatization: How Information Access is Affected When Public Becomes Private,” Fall 2013 National College Media Conference, New Orleans, La., Oct. 25-26, 2013.

“Knowledge = Power: How to Access Public Information,” *Speaking of Justice* speaker series, John Jay College, April 17, 2013. Invited by Office of Student Life.

Panel member, “Adviser Show and Tell,” Spring 2013 National College Media Conference, New York, N.Y., March 10, 2013.

“Making the Manual: Student Media Rules and Best Practices,” Spring 2013 National College Media Conference, New York, N.Y., March 10, 2013.

Moderator, “Underground Economies and Laboring in the Shadows of Neoliberal Global Markets” for the John Jay U.S. Latino/a Literature Conference, March 2013.

Featured guest, Criminal Justice Matters, CUNY-TV, February 2013.

“Research Spotlight: Caught in the Balance: Information Access in an Era of Privatized Public Higher Education,” and “Making the Manual: Student Media Rules and Best Practices,” Fall 2012 National College Media Conference, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 2, 2012.

“Accessing Public Information Under New York’s Freedom of Information Law,” *Speaking of Justice* speaker series, John Jay College, March 28, 2012. Invited by Office of Student Life.

“Deadline Deadbeats: Enforcing Deadlines in Your Newsroom,” Fall 2011 National College Media Conference, Orlando, Fl., Oct. 29, 2011.

“Working with Different Leadership Styles,” Spring 2011 National College Media Conference, New York, N.Y., March 13, 2011.

“When the Classroom Becomes the Newsroom,” Fall 2010 National College Media Conference, Louisville, Ky., Oct. 28, 2010.

Panel member, Media Seminar, Pacific Rim Entrepreneur Series 101, Asian Business Association of San Diego, San Diego, Calif., April 17, 2008.

Panel member, “Building the Multimedia Newsroom,” Knight Digital Media Center, UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, May 20, 2007.

Panel member, “How to Succeed as a Professional Journalist,” High School Journalism Workshop, CCNMA: Latino Journalists of California, June 2007.

Mentor, High School Journalism Workshop, CCNMA: Latino Journalists of California, June 2006.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member, Editorial Board of *The Journal of Civic Information*, 2020-present.

Juror, John Jay/HF Guggenheim Awards for Criminal Justice Journalism, 2009-present.

Judge, College Media Association Pinnacle Awards, 2019-present

Judge, College Media Association Apple Awards, 2022

Juror, New York Press Club Awards in the Crime/Criminal Justice category, 2012-2018.

Reviewer, Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Conference Research Paper Competition, 2015 and 2017.

Peer Reviewer, *Radical History Review*, for an edition focused on Digital Media, Fall 2012.

Member of:

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication

AEJMC Law and Policy Division

National Association of Hispanic Journalists

National Association for Media Literacy Education

College Media Association

College Media Association Advisory Council, 2013-2015

Conference Programming Committee, ACP/CMA National College Media Conference, 2013-2015

Media Tours Coordination, National College Media Conference, 2014 and 2016

Five-Year Evaluation Committee for National University’s Journalism BA program, 2012-2013

COLLEGE SERVICE

John Jay English Department:

Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2015-2017 and 2019-present.

Chair, Outcomes Assessment Digital Media and Journalism Minor Subcommittee, 2011-present.

Member, Major Advisory Committee, 2012-2014.

Member, Appeals Committee, 2010-2012.

Member, Outcomes Assessment English Minor Subcommittee, 2010-2011.

John Jay College:

Co-Chair, Support of the Student Experience Working Group for reaccreditation self-study, 2021-present.

Member, Auxiliary Services Corporation Board, 2018-present

Member, Major/Minor Coordinators Committee, 2012-present.

Co-Coordinator, Digital Media and Journalism program, 2009-present.

Faculty Adviser, *The John Jay Sentinel*, 2009-present.

Member, Committee on Student Interests, 2013-2018.

Member, Ceremonial Occasions Committee, 2011-2014.

Member, Search Committee for Associate Director, Undergraduate Academic Internships, 2013.

Member, New Courses Subcommittee of the Undergraduate Curriculum and College Standards Committee, 2010-2012.

Member, Advisory Board for the Student Evaluation of Faculty (SEOF) Committee, 2011-2012.

CUNY:

Member, CUNY Common Core Review Committee, 2020-present

Member, CUNY Journalism Discipline Council, 2010-present.

Member, News/Digital Literacy Committee, CUNY Journalism Discipline Council, 2011-2016.

COURSES TAUGHT

John Jay College/CUNY

ENG 131: Self, Media & Society

ENG 230: Journalism in the 21st Century

ENG 233: News Reporting and Writing

ENG 245: Creative Nonfiction

ENG 334: Intermediate Reporting and Writing

ENG 336: Digital Journalism

LIT 233: American Literature

LIT 237: Literature as Witness

ENG 201: English Composition II

National University

JRN 670: Enterprise Journalism (graduate course)

JRN 610: Backpack Digital Audio and Video Journalism (graduate course)

JRN 305: The Art of the Interview