

GUN VIOLENCE & PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORTING FELLOWS AUG 18-19, 2021

**Photos and bio info for some fellows were unavailable.*

Alphabetical order



EMILY ANDERSEN

Emily Andersen covers crime and courts for the *Quad City Times/Dispatch-Argus* in Davenport, Iowa. She grew up near Salt Lake, Utah and graduated from Brigham Young University with a journalism degree in December, 2020. Year. She notes that “gun violence has been increasing in our local area and it’s been a hot button topic for the last several months, to the point that the Davenport mayor has reached out to Iowa’s governor seeking extra law enforcement personnel be sent to the area.”



ELAINE ARADILLAS

Elaine Aradillas is a senior member of the crime reporting team at *People Magazine*. A reporter for nearly two decades, she has spent the majority of her career writing about crime, human interest and breaking news. Elaine has reported from the frontlines at some of the national’s biggest stories: Dark Knight mass shooting, Ferguson riots, the death of Ahmaud Arbery and countless others. She appears regularly on television where she has been interviewed for live segments on *Good Morning America*, *The Today Show* and HLN’s *Crime & Justice* with

Ashleigh Banfield. Before joining the magazine, her work appeared in the *Austin American Statesman*, *San Antonio Express-News*, *Riverside Press Enterprise*, *Orlando Sentinel*, and *The New York Times*. She graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism. She is based in New York City but currently working from home in San Antonio.

TIM ARANGO

Tim Arango is a national correspondent for the *New York Times*, and has been based in Los Angeles for the last four years, where he has covered wildfires, politics, the pandemic and criminal justice reform. He has written about social justice protests in Los Angeles, how the de-fund the police movement has played out in the nation’s second largest city, and how the surge in gun violence has shaped debates about the future of policing. Earlier this year, he was part of a team that covered the trial of Derek Chauvin in Minneapolis. Tim was based in the Middle East for almost eight years as Baghdad Bureau Chief. He joined the *Times* in 2007 as a media reporter, after stints at *Fortune* and the *New York Post*.



CHAMPE BARTON

Champe Barton started at The Trace as a fellow in 2019, and is now a reporter covering community violence and the gun industry.



JOSIAH BATES

Josiah Bates is a writer and journalist, currently working as a reporter at TIME Magazine. He covers national news with a focus on social issues, criminal justice and race. He is a graduate of Penn State University and Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism.



SARAH BODEN

Sarah Boden covers health and science for 90.5 WESA in Pittsburgh. When she was a junior in high school, she was hired as telemarketer to sell cable internet and TV. Making unsolicited phone calls to taciturn strangers for eight hours straight prepared Boden for a career in journalism. Before coming to Pittsburgh in November 2017, she was a reporter for Iowa Public Radio, where she won a regional Edward R. Murrow for her story on a legal challenge to Iowa's felon voting ban. Sarah's reporting has appeared on NPR's *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *Weekend Edition Saturday* and

WBUR's *Here and Now*. When not talking to strangers, Boden enjoys ceramics and spending time with her cat, Julie.

TINA A. BROWN

Tina A. Brown is an author and award-winning journalist whose work focuses primarily on crime, health and social trends. She's won many awards, including the 2007 Casey Journalism Medal for Meritorious Journalism from the Center on Children and Families at the Philip Merrill College of Journalism at the University of Maryland; and the 2001 Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism's Let's Do it Better prize. She also shared the 1999 Pulitzer Prize in breaking news with her colleagues at the *Hartford Courant*. She is the former executive editor/director of SSU Media High, a digital journalism residential camp for high school students at Savannah State University, and serves as a part-time CI investigator for the Georgia Department of Public Health's COVID19 Response Team. The Savannah, Georgia-based author of *Crooked Road Straight: The Awakening of AIDS Activist Linda Jordan*, Tina teaches writing courses in a local jail and conducts community self-empowerment workshops for youth on various aspects of storytelling. She obtained her Master's of Fine Arts degree in August 2018 from the Henry W. Grady School of the Department of Journalism & Mass Communication at the University of Georgia. She studied nonfiction narrative writing.



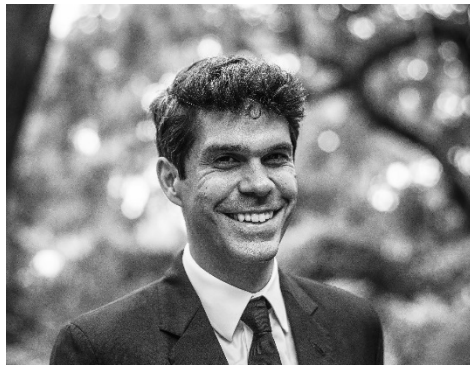
BETHANY BRUNER

Bethany Bruner is a reporter at the *Columbus Dispatch* in Columbus, Ohio, covering police, crime and public safety. In her role, she covers the rising homicide rate in the nation's 14th largest city, as well as numerous efforts to reform policing and unite the community. Prior to joining the staff at *The Dispatch*, she covered police, safety and breaking news in Newark, Ohio for the *Newark Advocate*. She is a graduate of Miami University (OH) with degrees in journalism and history.



JONATHAN BULLINGTON

Jonathan Bullington is an investigative reporter with *The Courier Journal* in Louisville, Kentucky. A Chicago-area native, he previously worked at the *Chicago Tribune* and the *Times-Picayune* in New Orleans. His coverage of gun violence and criminal justice issues has won national and regional awards. In 2020, he was part of *The Courier Journal* team that won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news for its coverage of former Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin's flurry of last-minute pardons and commutations.



JAMES BURNETT

As Managing Director and founding editor of *The Trace*, James leads the only news organization dedicated to reporting on the United States' gun violence crisis. Under his stewardship, *The Trace* has grown into an award-winning nonprofit media outlet that has co-published articles with more than 200 partners and has earned the support of over 30 national and local institutional

funders. James's prior experience in media leadership includes his service as Story Editor for *The New Republic*, News Editor for *New York Magazine*, Enterprise Editor for AOL News, and Editor in Chief of *Boston Magazine*. James attended Duke University, where he majored in public policy.



STEPHANIE CASANOVA

Stephanie Casanova is a breaking news and criminal justice reporter at the *Chicago Tribune*. A graduate of the University of Arizona, Tucson, she previously worked at the *Arizona Daily Star*, where she reported in Spanish and English.

MELISSA CHAN

Melissa Chan, a staff writer at *TIME Magazine*, covers crime and courts, with a strong focus on gun violence. In 2018, she played an integral role reporting out TIME's special cover project, "Guns in America," which was nominated for an Emmy and won the Edward R. Murrow Award. Chan has worked for TIME in New York City for the last six years and previously served as a breaking news reporter and editor for the *New York Daily News*.



CASSIE CHEW

After almost a decade as a Capitol Hill reporter, Cassie is pursuing explanatory reporting projects that explore policy impacting economic mobility. Recently she served as reporter in the Sojo.net Election 2020 pop-up newsroom. Her work this past year also can be seen in *The Crime Report*, *ABA Journal* and *Civil Eats*. She is a graduate of the Medill School of Journalism where she studied multimedia, feature and business news reporting and the University of Illinois where majored in English, Art and African-American literature along with study abroad in Guanajuato, Mexico.



LAURA DAMON

Laura Damon is a crime/courts reporter at the *Newport Daily News*, but she also covers "just about everything from politics to education." A Rhode Island native and a University of Rhode Island graduate, she earned her bachelor's degree in journalism and anthropology, with a minor in French. She returned to URI for her master's degree, which she earned in 2018. As a participant in the Maya Research Program in Belize, she helped to excavate and map ancient Mayan structures and human burials. At the *Newport Daily News*, she reports frequently on mental health-related issues. When not working, she "typically has a few books and academic journals going at once (to) pick up whatever suits my mood on a given day. Laura is also a student pilot, and likes to bike-ride and ski.

ELIZABETH DEPOMPEI

Elizabeth DePompei is a public safety enterprise reporter for the *Indianapolis Star*. She is a native of Northern Kentucky with degrees in film studies (Hunter College) and journalism (University of Cincinnati). Prior to joining the Indy Star, Elizabeth was a crime reporter for the *News and Tribune* in Southern Indiana and later, a digital editor. She lives on the south side of Indianapolis with her shelter dog, Shadow, and is eagerly awaiting the start of football season (Go Browns!).



DAVID DUDLEY

David is a journalist, educator and playwright. A staffer at *St. George News* in Southern Utah, he's written for the *Christian Science Monitor*, *Zenger News*, the *Barton Chronicle*, *North Star Monthly*, and *The Northland Journal*, among others. He has covered various beats, including breaking news, courts and crimes, sports, and arts and entertainment. His writing on theatre appears regularly in *American Theatre Magazine*, *Contemporary Theatre Review (UK)*, *ConJunto (Cuba)*, and *HowlRound.com*. David's play, *800 Days of Solitude*, about the ways in which solitary confinement affects juveniles and their

families, was awarded the 2018 Christian Moe playwriting prize. He earned a BFA with summa cum laude honors from DePaul University, and holds an MFA in playwriting from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. He was a CMCI Southwest Justice Reporting Fellow earlier this year.

PAIGE FRY

Paige Fry covers breaking news and general assignments for the *Chicago Tribune*. She started at the Tribune on a year of overnights, listening to police scanners and going to shootings and riots during the COVID-19 pandemic. She graduated from the University of Florida, where she studied journalism and led one of the largest independent student-run newspapers.





JENNY GAITHRIGHT

Jenny Gaithright is the criminal justice reporter at WAMU/DC in Washington D.C. For the past 18 months, she has covered local activism, the coronavirus pandemic and its unequal effects, the criminal justice system, violence prevention, and other breaking news. Her reporting has also appeared on NPR and other national shows like 1A. Before WAMU, she was a producer and news assistant at NPR.



KELLY GARCIA

Kelly Garcia is a summer reporting resident with *Injustice Watch*. She is also a Chicago-based freelance journalist covering education, police and politics. She has bylines at *Injustice Watch*, *The TRiiBE*, *Chicago Reader* and *South Side Weekly*. Kelly was previously a civic reporting fellow for *City Bureau*.

MARA GOTTFRIED

Mara Gottfried has been a *St. Paul Pioneer Press* reporter since 2001, where she mostly covers St. Paul crime and public safety. Gottfried graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism. You can read her work at [twincities.com](https://www.twincities.com) and follow her at twitter.com/MaraGottfried



ANDY GRIMM

Andy Grimm covers criminal justice for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Andy has been a journalist for 20 years, and has covered criminal courts in Cook County and federal courthouses in three states.



ERIN HEFFERNAN

Erin Heffernan is the public safety reporter at *the St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. She serves as a beat reporter covering two of Missouri's largest police forces, St. Louis Metropolitan Police and St. Louis County Police. She's been a newspaper reporter for seven years in Texas, South Carolina and Missouri.

DAVID HOLTHAUS

David Holthaus is an independent journalist based in Cincinnati, Ohio. He is managing editor of *NKY Thrives* and a contributing editor of *Soapbox Media*, two solutions journalism-based publications owned by Issue Media Group of Grand Rapids, Mich. He is also a regular contributor to *Cincinnati Magazine* and to several other publications. He was an editor and reporter at both Cincinnati daily newspapers, where he won awards for investigative reporting, business reporting, opinion writing, and community impact.



ELIOT HUGHES

Elliot Hughes covers crime, public safety and breaking news in Milwaukee and the surrounding area for the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he has been the public safety reporter for the *Journal Sentinel* since February, 2020, where he covers emergency services, crime and crime prevention in Milwaukee. That includes the city's unprecedented homicide rate, which began shortly before the pandemic in 2020 and has continued into 2021.



SABRINA IGLESIAS

Sabrina Iglesias is project manager for *Up the Block*, a website that connects the people of Philadelphia with resources for coping with the traumas surrounding gun violence. The program connects community members with organizations that focus on such issues as mental health counseling, the Victims Compensation Program, and after-school opportunities. Iglesias, a longtime Philadelphia resident, has worked to listen to Philadelphians and find out what information gaps need to be filled. Up the Block currently

exists [online](#) and on [Instagram](#) but is starting to move into the community through collaborative events.

ELIZABETH JOSEPH

Elizabeth Joseph is a CNN senior news editor based in New York City, managing northeast editorial and supervising weekend coverage. She has been with CNN for a dozen years, and has extensive experience across news desks, show teams, field assignments and is most proud of bridging understanding between departments and time zones. She began her CNN career in New York City as part of Christiane Amanpour's international program "Amanpour" in 2008, later moving to company headquarters in Atlanta as part of its international desk, and Hong Kong to focus on Asia-Pacific newsgathering. Since joining the New York team, she has covered high profile #MeToo cases, leads United Nations General Assembly editorial, and is deployed on breaking news stories, most recently to India to document the Covid-19 surge and the Surfside, Florida building collapse. Elizabeth joined CNN from ABC News where she produced longform content at ABC News' "20/20" and "Primetime."

NANA KARIKARI

Nana Karikari is an award-winning broadcast journalist, currently working as a national producer with Fox News Network, where she produces current affairs and original content for more than 180 Fox News affiliates nationwide. She is professionally affiliated to the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) and United Nations Correspondents Association (UNCA). These experiences have helped her develop a strong sense of confidence, character and team work. Throughout her career, she has gained extensive knowledge of global issues.



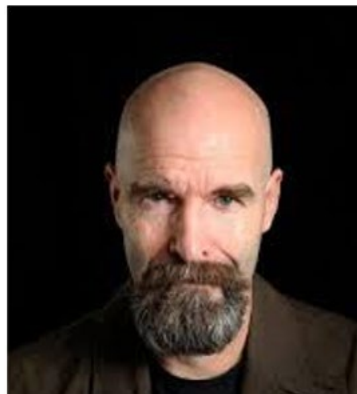
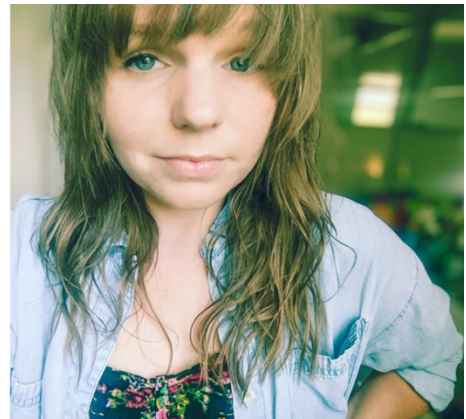


KATIE KAUSCH

Katie Kausch covering crime and breaking news for the *NJ.com / The Star-Ledger*. She's previously worked at the *Morris County Patch*, *Fox 5 NY*, *News 12 NJ* and *MTV News*. When not writing the news, reading the news, or talking about the news to anyone who will listen, Katie enjoys crafting, cooking, and going to concerts.

APRIL S. KELLEY

April S. Kelley is a freelance journalist who has spent the last decade reporting for local newspapers and magazines across the US, mostly in the American South. Currently, she resides in the Austin, Tx., metro area, reporting on the intersection of social justice issues, identity and music.



TRISTRAM KORTEN

Tristram Korten is a freelance journalist and investigative reporter who covers the criminal justice system and the environment, among other topic areas. His work has appeared in national magazines such as *GQ*, *Smithsonian*, and *The Atlantic Monthly*, as well as newspapers including the *Washington Post* and *The Miami Herald*. His radio work has been featured on PRI's *The World*, and NPR's *Here and Now*. He is the former editor of the Florida Center for Investigative Reporting, and the author of the 2018 book "Into The Storm" (Ballantine/Random House).

KATIE KULL

Katie Kull is a public safety reporter at the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, where she covers policing in the metro area's myriad municipalities and surrounding counties. She recently moved to St. Louis from Springfield, Mo., where she covered local government and the pandemic.



KIRA LERNER

Kira Lerner has been a senior news editor at PBS NewsHour where she edits reporting on politics and criminal justice reform issues. I've recently edited stories about marijuana conviction expungement and the trauma inflicted on the children of incarcerated people. She is a freelancer for *The Appeal*, among other publications.



SAMANTHA MELAMED

Samantha Melamed writes about the criminal-legal system, prisons and policing for the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. In 2020, her stories on the overuse and dire consequences of Pennsylvania's probation system won the Hillman Prize for Newspaper Journalism. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and worked at publications including the *Philadelphia City Paper* and the *Cambodia Daily* before joining the *Inquirer* as a features writer in 2013.

TRACY NEAL

Tracy Neal is the crime and courts reporter for the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. He has been a reporter in the area for more than 20 years. A native of Bastrop, Louisiana, Tracy is a graduate of Louisiana Tech University. He lives in Bentonville, Arkansas.



EMILY NEIL

Emily Neil is a freelance journalist based in Philadelphia. Her work has been published in *AL DÍA News*, *Generocity*, *IJNET*, *The Philadelphia Citizen*, *WHYY*, and more. She has worked as a freelance reporter with *The Trace*, and is a story editor at *Global Press Journal*. Prior to moving to Philadelphia, Emily worked as a communications officer for SERES, a Guatemalan non-profit organization focused on youth leadership and sustainability education in Guatemala and El Salvador. Born and raised in Baltimore, Emily

received her Master's of Science in journalism from Columbia Journalism School in 2016, and graduated with a B.A. in Middle Eastern studies and a minor in Spanish and Latin American studies from Barnard College.



SARAH NELSON

Sarah has been the night cops & breaking news reporter for *The Indianapolis Star* since January. She got her start in journalism at the *Gainesville Sun* in Florida covering local government, courts and education before landing on the crime beat. Her first public safety story involved six jars of human tongues found by police under a home. A Minnesota native (who loves the Milwaukee Brewers) she graduated from Bethel University in St. Paul.

LINH NGUYEN

Linh Nguyen is a fourth year political science student at UC Davis. She has been writing for the *Davis Vanguard* since January 2020, where she has posted hundreds of articles on criminal justice reform, policing, and social justice. Her hometown is San Jose, California.



HILARY POWELL

Hilary Powell is an AP award-winning journalist. She is the first-ever video journalist to serve the Associated Press in the D.C bureau. On a typical day, Hilary works a story from concept to completion as reporter, producer and editor. Previously, Hilary reported for North Carolina's only statewide news network, *Spectrum News*. Before that, she was a reporter for WSBT-TV, a PBS station in Northwest Indiana, and cut her teeth in network television as an intern for The Oprah Winfrey Show. She worked her way up to being one of the youngest associate producers of digital content for The Oprah Winfrey Network. She's also

been a reporting fellow with the German American Fulbright Kommission. Hilary is a double graduate of the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University.



APRIL RICKERT

Aprile Rickert is the senior reporter at the *News and Tribune* in Southern Indiana, a Tuesday through Saturday newspaper covering Clark and Floyd counties across the river from Louisville, Ky. She has been at this publication for six years, covering criminal justice since 2017 with a strong focus on public health. She was also a 2018 fellow with the John Jay College of Criminal Justice “Rural (In)Justice” series.

ENE SKENE

Lea Skene covers crime and criminal justice for *The Advocate* in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, focusing on gun violence and the Baton Rouge Police Department in addition to jails and prisons.



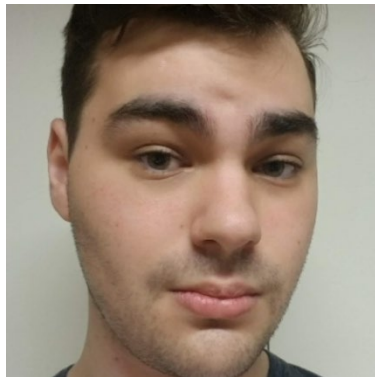
KATY SMYSER

Katy Smyser is the senior producer for investigations for NBC5 Chicago and Telemundo Chicago— overseeing both stations’ investigative and consumer-investigative units. Smyser reported for her hometown newspaper in Oak Ridge, Tennessee; attended Northwestern University, and produced investigations at WMAQ-TV in Chicago, before joining *Dateline NBC* as a national investigative producer in the 1990s. In 2000 she left to raise her four children, then re-joined NBC Chicago in 2011 to help re-build the local investigative teams at both NBC and Telemundo. She has received several awards, including a Peabody, duPont, and RFK humanitarian award,

along with two Murrows, several IRE awards, and multiple local honors. She lives in Highland Park, IL, with her husband, the former head of production at WTTW, Chicago’s public television station.

EUGENE SONN

While collaboration may be new to some in journalism, Eugene Sonn has been getting newsrooms to work together since 1998. Gene first did this as a reporter, then as WHYY's news director and now as Resolve's Senior Collaborations Editor, where he helps lead more than 20 newsrooms in the [Broke in Philly](#) reporting project. When not helping reporters and editors collaborate, Gene can be found biking, brewing beer or sharing his rabid love of the Boston Red Sox with his two sons.



GEORGE WIEBE

George Wiebe graduated from Southern Illinois University's College of Mass Communications and Media Arts with a B.S. in Journalism. He has lived in Chicago, IL for 24 years and is a freelance reporter. Although he would like to take his career into international reporting, he believes it is important to begin his work in an environment that has been his home. He seeks informative and in depth news coverage rather than surface-level examination of an ongoing issue like gun violence.



AKILAH WISE

Akilah Wise, a public health researcher and journalist based in Atlanta, GA, covers public health, medicine and inequity in the U.S. She has written for Youth Today and the Juvenile Justice Information Exchange on topics related to trauma-informed curriculum, police violence, and public health. A trained public health scientist, she served as a research fellow at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, where she worked on HIV surveillance. Akilah has also published in The Nation, The Boston Globe, The Appeal, and Rewire News, and is a member of the Association of Healthcare Journalists.