

# Mila Sanina

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## Teaching, designing courses, reporting, editing and social entrepreneurship

Award-winning professor and journalist with 15 years of experience in local and international reporting, editing, translation, management and fundraising. Skilled at working with diverse teams, under tight deadlines, on ambitious journalism and business projects. Strong project management skills.

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## Professional experience

**Assistant Teaching Professor of Journalism:** [The Pennsylvania State University](#), Donald P. Bellisario College of Communications, State College, Pa., September 2022- present

- Design and teach courses and workshops on news writing and reporting, ethics, multimedia production, entrepreneurial journalism and international reporting
- Launch online courses and serve as an in-house consultant in design thinking
- Mentor and coach students on longform reporting projects
- Honored with [the excellence in teaching award in 2023](#) (nominated by the students)

**Freelance Journalist and Consultant:** Various local and international publications, February 2022 - present

- Report, write and edit investigative, opinion and feature stories
- Develop audience engagement, fundraising and marketing strategies.

**Executive Director:** [PublicSource.org](#), Pittsburgh, Pa., July 2016 - December 2021

- Led and directed the editorial strategy and business operations of PublicSource, an award-winning nonprofit newsroom providing public-service local journalism
- Grew a team from four to 15 people and annual budget from \$300,000 to \$1.3 million
- Edited breaking news and special projects, checked for accuracy, grammar and punctuation
- Conceived and managed investigative journalism projects and news products
- Led community classes on storytelling, public records, sourcing and news literacy.

**Deputy Managing Editor:** [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), November 2015 – July 2016

- Supervised a deeper integration of online and print operations in the newsroom of 120 journalists, oversaw breaking news and online operations
- Helped manage the Post-Gazette's daily operations and newsroom departments in coverage, online special projects and resource allocation
- Conceived and edited off-the-news enterprise reporting projects, using multimedia design and audience engagement techniques.

**Assistant Managing Editor:** [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), February 2013 – October 2015

- Managed a team of 11 journalists who ran online operations, including social media and mobile for post-gazette.com, the most visited site in Western Pennsylvania at the time
- Supervised the development of new content verticals, projects, including [Odysseys](#), the project that won *The National Headliner Award '15*
- Identified new platforms and formats to deliver the news, helped to build new tools for our content management system, introduced popular newsletters and online products.

**Audience Engagement Editor:** [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#), September 2011 – February 2013

- Designed, implemented and evaluated the newsroom's audience engagement strategy, identified cutting-edge social media tools and incorporated them into newsgathering and reporting
- Managed newspaper's social media accounts; integrated and oversaw commenting
- Created and managed the award-winning site ["The Digs."](#) a digitized morgue of historic photos.

**Desk Assistant:** [PBS NewsHour](#), Arlington, Va., January – May 2011

- Assisted in the production of in-studio international news segments
- Found, pre-interviewed and booked guests for the show
- Researched, pitched and wrote stories for website, newsletter and social media platforms.

**Assignment Editor:** [CNN International Desk](#), Atlanta, Ga., June – Dec. 2010

- Coordinated newsgathering internationally
- Worked with show producers to meet story needs
- Developed leads for CNN Wire
- Translated stories and wire from Russian and French.

**Founding Editor-in-Chief:** *The Pitt Political Review: GSPIA Edition* (now [Pitt Policy Journal](#)), University of Pittsburgh, Nov. 2008 – 2009

## Education

**Media Transformation Challenge program**, 2020, Poynter Institute

**Master of Public and International Affairs**, 2010

Major: Public Policy (global political economy)

Graduate School of Public and International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Bachelor of Arts**, 2008

Major: Political Science and International Relations

American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

*magna cum laude*

## Relevant skills, experience

Certified trainer in design thinking, LUMA Institute, Pittsburgh, Pa., 2023

**Writer:** Contributor to the English-language regional newspaper *The Times of Central Asia*.

Field coverage of the events of the Tulip Revolution, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, 2005 – 2006

**Languages:** Fluent in English, Russian and French; basic Bulgarian and Kazakh, co-translated and co-published a book titled Bulgakov's Feuilleton (2011) <http://amzn.to/17R8Eqb>