

Media Executive, Documentary Filmmaker, News Producer & Journalism Scholar

I've built a career at the intersection of documentary storytelling, journalism education, and organizational leadership. I directed *Al Primo & His Eyewitness News Revolution*, honored at festivals in New York, Los Angeles, and London and premiered by WABC-TV, and *John Johnson Reporting*, produced with ABC/Disney. Over twenty years, I've led academic departments, launched new programs and industry partnerships, taught and advised thousands of students, and directed field and survey research for government, non-profit, and media clients. I anchored and reported for Nexstar Media Group and Charter Spectrum before moving into film partnerships and sales at latakoo, Inc., where I also serve as Scholar-In-Residence.



— EXPERIENCE

Director of Film Partnerships & Scholar-In-Residence2024 – Present

latakoo, Inc. — Consultant, 2024; Director of Film Partnerships & Scholar-In-Residence, 2025–Present

Drive sales and film-partnership development with filmmakers and production teams, connecting long-form productions to latakoo's video workflow platform; conduct applied research on video management technology's role in journalism for a platform serving NBC Universal, Nexstar, and Charter Spectrum. Co-presented "The Story Starts Here," an NPPA/latakoo webinar on field-tested storytelling techniques for content creators.

Head, Department of Journalism2021 – 2024

University of Cincinnati

- Launched the department's first TV news studio and its first TV news producer course
- Created the Journomentary program for faculty–student long-form documentary collaboration
- Led a new student-run cable news program, the first external program review, and a "professional affiliates" industry-partner network
- Brokered the department's partnership with latakoo and developed a \$700,000 NEH grant proposal

Professor of Political Science2016 – 2021

University of Cincinnati — tenured 2021; Associate 2019–2021; Assistant 2016–2019

Political Analyst2019 – 2023

Spectrum News 1 Ohio

News Anchor, Political Analyst & Reporter2010 – 2025

Nexstar Media Group, Inc. — KSNT 27 News, KOLR10, and affiliate stations

Contributed to an award-winning investigative series with Sinclair Broadcast Group.

Anchor & Producer2026 – Present

Coastal TV Broadcast Group

Produced and reported "The Future of Water in the West," a series on Colorado River basin water policy.

Interim Chair, Department of Political Science2014 – 2015

California State University, Dominguez Hills

Lecturer / Assistant / Associate Professor of Political Science2006 – 2014

Missouri State University, Chatham University, Texas A&M University, and California State University, Los Angeles

— DOCUMENTARY PROJECTS

The Legitimate Burden — in production, 2026–28, fiscal sponsorship via Filmmakers Collaborative, Inc.

One More Day — in production, 2026–28, fiscal sponsorship via Filmmakers Collaborative, Inc.

John Johnson Reporting — 2025–26, produced with ABC/Disney archival collaboration and narrated by Whoopi Goldberg; Documentary winner, 47th Annual Telly Awards (chosen from 13,000+ entries), plus six festival wins in 2026; likely to receive distribution through California Pictures

Al Primo & His Eyewitness News Revolution — 2024, premiered by WABC-TV (May 2024); distributed via Good Docs and PBS affiliate stations; New York EMMY nomination, 2 Telly Awards, and Best Documentary honors at festivals in New York, Los Angeles, and London

— SELECT MEDIA AWARDS

2026	Documentary winner, 47th Annual Telly Awards, <i>John Johnson Reporting</i>	2024	Telly Award, journalism education programming
2026	Six festival wins, <i>John Johnson Reporting</i>	2024	EMMY nomination, Political Reporting (NATAS, Ohio Valley)
2025	New York EMMY nomination, <i>Al Primo & His Eyewitness News Revolution</i>	2024	Best Documentary — Queens Film Festival; Golden Nugget International Film Festival (London); Mojo International Film Festival (Los Angeles)
2025	Telly Award, journalism education programming	2023	First Place, Education Issues Reporting (Ohio SPJ)
2022	First Place, Investigative Reporting & Documentary/Public Affairs (Missouri Broadcasters Assn.)	2021	Diamond Award, First Place, Political Coverage (Arkansas SPJ)

MEDIA CREDITS

The Washington Post

Newsweek

Cincinnati Enquirer

KTVI-TV, St. Louis

WKRC-TV, Cincinnati

Wiley Online Library

SAGE Publishing

Taylor & Francis Online

CTV News

Sky News UK

Global News Toronto

London School of Economics Blog

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science

2007

University of North Texas — examined fields: American politics (passed with distinction), comparative politics (Middle East)

B.A., Political Science

2000

Rider University

Certificate, Applied Business Science (Digital Marketing)

2025

Texas Executive Education, UT Austin McCombs School of Business; certified in Google Ads and HubSpot

Certificate, Production Management in TV

2026

ELVTR — taught by Christina Northrup (20th Century Studios & Fox International Channels; UPM credits include *24*, *Homeland*, *Prison Break*, *The Haunting of Hill House*)

Coursework: scheduling/budgeting in Movie Magic; studio green-light process and production-office setup; labor law, union/guild compliance and OSHA safety; on-set coordination (call sheets, one-liners, DPRs); production accounting and payroll; post-production workflow and copyright clearance.

PUBLICATIONS

Author of 10 peer-reviewed academic books and more than 60 peer-reviewed journal articles on media, politics, and religion, published by Columbia University Press, Temple University Press, Routledge, Rowman & Littlefield, and others. Forthcoming: *Politics Tonight* (LSU Press); *Police Reform in America: Empowering Local Communities and Enforcing Change* (University of Michigan Press); *Reporting US Politics: The Local TV Perspective* (Routledge, 2025); a manuscript on religion and politics with Columbia University Press.

The American Professor Pundit — Palgrave, 2021

Human Relations Commissions — Columbia UP, 2020

Understanding Muslim Political Life in America — Temple UP, 2019

Muslims, Identity, and American Politics — Routledge, 2018

A Matter of Discretion — Rowman & Littlefield, 2017

God Talk — Temple UP, 2013

RESEARCH & GRANTS

Principal or co-principal investigator on more than \$135,000 in external research grants since 2015, including two National Science Foundation grants, a U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development award, and support from the Scripps Howard Foundation. Directed field and survey research programs for the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, the Cincinnati Black United Front, and the Metropolitan Area Religious Coalition of Cincinnati, among others. Have served as an expert witness in federal district court.

LEADERSHIP & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2024–27 Executive Council Member, Western Political Science Association

2020–23 Founding Coordinator, Certificate in Political & Public Affairs Reporting, UC

2021–23 President, Arts & Sciences Faculty Senate, University of Cincinnati

2023–24 Director, Digital Media Certificate, University of Cincinnati

2020–23 Chair, University of Cincinnati Communications Board

Current Co-Chair, Austin–Greater Manchester Sister Cities Committee

2020–24 Faculty Advisory Board, University of Cincinnati Press

2008–21 Co-Coordinator, APSA Religion and Politics Section Mentoring Program

SOFTWARE & TECHNICAL PROFICIENCY

Adobe Premiere, Rush & After Effects

DaVinci Resolve

latakoo

Sony FX6 / FX30 / Z90

Stata, SPSS, R

Qualtrics

ATLAS.ti

Avid / iNews

HTML5 & CSS

Octopus

Python

Movie Magic

TEACHING

Two decades of university teaching across TV news production and performance, film editing, mass media, constitutional law, American and comparative politics, quantitative research methods, and legislative politics, at the University of Cincinnati, Missouri State University, California State University Dominguez Hills, Chatham University, Texas A&M University, and California State University, Los Angeles. Also taught media production and reporting at Future University in Egypt (2017–2022).

REFERENCES

Valerie J. Martinez-Ebers, Ph.D.

Professor, Political Science, University of North Texas
President-elect, American Political Science Association
vjm0007@unt.edu · (817) 257-6403

Nazita Lajevardi, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan
nazita@umich.edu

Marisa Burke

Group News Director, Coastal TV Broadcast Group
mburke@coastalnewsgroup.com · 1856 Skyview Drive, Casper, WY 82601

Regina P. Branton, Ph.D.

Marshall A. Rauch Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Political Science & Public Administration, UNC Charlotte
rbranton@charlotte.edu · 704-687-7033

Viktoriia Petruk

Strategic Program Director, docutribе, Inc.
petruk.v1c@gmail.com

Iris Roley

Program Director, Cincinnati Black United Front
irisrole@gmail.com · 513.731.8111