



CONTACT DETAILS

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FERNANDA SANTOS

SKILLS SUMMARY

I am a Southwest Borderlands Initiative professor of practice at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, narrative journalism and bilingual reporting. I joined Cronkite after 12 years at The New York Times, where I pioneered the use of Facebook Live in everyday reporting and anchored the newspaper's coverage of the American Southwest. I won several prestigious awards in my 20 years as a newspaper reporter, gave keynote lectures and taught at a number of conferences, and judged one of the United States's most prestigious writing contests. My first book, "The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots," received the Western Writers of America 2017 Spur Award for Best First Nonfiction Book and was one of two finalists in the Contemporary Nonfiction category.

EXPERIENCE

WALTER CRONKITE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION

Southwest Borderlands Initiative Professor of Practice/August 2017 - present

I teach narrative writing and bilingual reporting to juniors, seniors and graduate students. Stories written by my students have been published in major online and print publications, including The Arizona Republic, The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, The Miami Herald, and BuzzFeed. I am one of two Cronkite professors tasked with developing a new inter-disciplinary course on religion, democracy and journalism. I am an advisor to international journalists spending a year at Cronkite through the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Staff Writer/September 2005-July 2017

Prolific reporter who embraced experimentation and distinguished myself for my storytelling skills. I covered a variety of topics, people and places - from New York City public schools and City Hall to public housing developments in Chicago, a Buddhist community in Upstate New York and border towns along the U.S.-Mexico border. As Phoenix Bureau chief, I anchored the newspaper's coverage of the American Southwest. My coverage of the Yarnell Hill Fire, one of the deadliest in U.S. history, led to changes in the way wildland firefighters are trained. My story on the first year of freedom of a man exonerated through DNA evidence changed the way the State of New York compensates those who are wrongfully convicted. The story was nominated for the Livingston Award and won the Society of Silurians' first-place award for Community Service Reporting.

PEOPLE MAGAZINE

Contributing Writer/June 2005-August 2005

Focused on reporting and writing news-driven stories for the print and online editions of People.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING PROJECT

Fellow/January 2005-May 2005

One of eight journalists selected for the competitive, prestigious fellowship program hosted by the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. Chosen on the base of a reporting project that aimed to explore the reasons behind the 50-percent decline in the violent crime rate in Colombia's capital, Bogotá, between 1995 and 2005. Successfully pitched stories to The Christian Science Monitor, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Newsday and The Star-Ledger.

THE (NEW YORK) DAILY NEWS

Staff Writer/April 2002-December 2005

Known for fast, accurate and compelling reporting from some of the most overlooked neighborhoods in New York City. Rose to become newspaper's leading national reporter, assigned with covering some of the biggest stories at the time, including the explosion of Space Shuttle Columbia and the deadly fire at a nightclub Rhode Island.

THE EAGLE-TRIBUNE

Staff Writer/May 2000-March 2002

Charged with covering breaking news stories in the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and surrounding communities. One of lead writers in "Building Bridges," a 10-part series exploring the relationship between Anglo and Latino communities in Lawrence when it emerged as the first majority-minority city in New England. The series was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and won the Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award for Public Service in 2002.

THE UNION-NEWS AND SUNDAY REPUBLICAN

Contributing Writer/July 1999-April 2000

Covered the exurban communities of Wilbraham and Hampden, which required a newly arrived immigrant to learn quickly about the quirks of local politics in New England and adapt to being "different" in an area where most everyone was a native-born American. Learned that diversity of backgrounds is a strength. Spoke at local schools about the topic, earning accolades from teachers and parents.

EDUCATION

BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION

M.S., Print Journalism/May 1999

PONTIFÍCIA UNIVERSIDADE CATÓLICA DO RIO DE JANEIRO

B.A., Communications/July 1996

BOOKS

AUTHOR, "THE FIRE LINE: THE STORY OF THE GRANITE MOUNTAIN HOTSHOTS," PUBLISHED BY FLATIRON BOOKS IN MAY 2016 (HARDCOVER) AND JUNE 2017 (PAPERBACK).

CO-AUTHOR, "LATINOS IN THE UNITED STATES," A GUIDE PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HISPANIC JOURNALISTS, 2002.

LECTURES, WORKSHOPS, HONORS AND AWARDS

Fernanda Santos has lectured in a number of universities, journalism conferences, book-writing conventions and other events throughout her career as a journalist, author and professor in the United States. She has also trained students and young and experienced journalists on narrative storytelling, and sought to inspire them with the story of her journey as a journalist in the United States. Following are some highlights:

Journalism and Women Symposium Mount Hood,

Oregon/October 2018

Spoke at the annual conference of the national women journalists' organization, about narrative writing and about incorporating personal experiences into your writing.

Western News & Info

Prescott Valley, Arizona/September 2018

Trained approximately 60 editors and reporters from 10 daily newspapers in northern Arizona on how to incorporate elements of narrative storytelling in everyday stories.

Agricultural Media Summit Keynote Speaker

Scottsdale, Arizona/August 2018

Spoke about career path as an immigrant journalist in the United States to conference participants, who hailed from the U.S. and six other countries.

Friends of the Phoenix Public Library

Phoenix, Arizona/July 2018

Delivered keynote speech at the annual meeting of the Friends of the Phoenix Public Library, focusing on how I have applied the lessons of teamwork I learned while researching my book on wildland firefighters into my personal life.

Mayo Clinic-Cronkite Medical Journalism Fellowship Master Trainer

Phoenix, Arizona/May 2018

Trained 20 of the United States' most respected healthcare journalists on narrative storytelling.

Arizona Capitol Times

Phoenix, Arizona/April 2018

Conducted in-house workshop with newspaper's reporting staff over how to frame and find the right focus for stories.

Associated Press Media Editors NewsTrain

Phoenix, Arizona/February 2018

Trained reporters and editors from media organizations throughout the Southwest on narrative storytelling.

2017 Western Writers of America Spur Award Winner

"The Fire Line: The Story of the Granite Mountain Hotshots," won first-place award for Best First Nonfiction Book. It was also one of two finalists in the Contemporary Nonfiction Category.

Must-See-Monday Series

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Phoenix, Arizona/April 2017

Spoke about being an immigrant journalist covering the border at the Cronkite School's flagship speaker series.

TEDx Speaker

Tucson, Arizona/May 2017

One of five speakers selected in a competitive process to headline the TEDx Tucson event with a talk about teamwork.

Power of Narrative Conference

Boston, Massachusetts/February 2016

Spoke about narrative storytelling to an audience of journalists and nonfiction writers.

Robert R. Eunson Distinguished Lecturer

Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona/November 2015

Headlined event for journalism students and journalists in northern Arizona with speech about using background and life experiences to guide the reporting.

Guest Lecturer at Faculdade de Comunicação (FACOM)

Federal University of Bahia, Salvador, Brazil/December 2015

Delivered two-hour lecture to journalism students and journalists about the arc of my career as a journalist in the United States.

Mídia.JOR

São Paulo, Brazil/Julho 2012

Discussed career path to becoming the first Brazilian to work as a staff writer at The New York Times and the most significant changes to journalism experienced during my career in the United States.

Society of Silurians Award

New York, New York/June 2008

Recipient of the Community Service award by the Society of Silurians, the oldest journalism organization in New York, for story headlined "Vindicated by DNA, But a Lost Man on the Outside," published by The New York Times in November 2007.

Livingston Award Nominee

Nominated for the prestigious Livingston Award, open to journalists who are 40 years old and younger, for story headlined "Vindicated by DNA, But a Lost Man on the Outside," published by The New York Times in November 2007.

Society of Professional Journalists' Sigma Delta Chi Award Winner

One of lead writers on 10-part series called "Building Bridges," recipient of the Sigma Delta Chi's Public Service award in 2002. The series explored the relationship between Anglo and Latino residents in Lawrence, Massachusetts, New England's first majority-minority community.

FELLOWSHIPS**Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism**

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio/April 2017

One of 21 fellow selected out of a pool of 500 applicants for an immersive weeklong program focused on enhancing participants' multimedia journalism skills.

International Reporting Project

Bogotá, Colombia/January-May 2005

One of eight journalists selected in a competitive process. Selection was based on journalists' project ideas; Santos set out to explore the reasons behind the 50-percent decline in the violent crime rate in Bogotá, once the most violent city in South America. Published three articles in leading American publications - about judicial reform in Colombia, paramilitary disarmament and a mayoral candidate who campaigned on a promise of civility.

BOARDS AND VOLUNTEER WORK

Arizona Latino Media Association - Board Member/August 2017-present

Phoenix, Arizona

The mission of the association is to advocate for Latino journalists and provide Latino journalism students and professionals with training, mentorship and networking opportunities.

Migratory Notes - Founding Board Member/2017-present

Los Angeles, California

An electronic newsletter that compiles the best coverage of immigration and emails it weekly to journalists, politicians, activists and scholars across the United States.

The Sauce Foundation - Vice President/February 2018-present

Phoenix, Arizona

Created in the memory of my husband, Mike Saucier, the foundation is a 501c(3) that raises money for pancreatic cancer research and offers an annual scholarship to first-generation college students at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

News Literacy Project - Volunteer/2007-present

New York, New York

The project's mission is to turn middle- and high-school students into responsible and critical consumers of news, and to teach them to judge what is and is not a reliable source of information.