

RYAN T. KOST

ryan.kost@gmail.com • 480.226.2504 • www.ryantkost.com

WORK EXPERIENCE

Enterprise Reporter, Day-Of Team | New York Public Radio/ Gothamist; New York | Oct. 2025 - Present

- Built beats on jails, prosecutors and public corruption: repeatedly broke news on a federal corruption probe; landed several exclusives on prosecutorial misconduct; anchored coverage of Rikers' court-ordered overhaul, distilling dense federal filings.
- Balanced enterprise work with daily news, filing 200+ stories in the first year for the country's largest public radio station.
- Captured sound, wrote scripts and recorded radio spots, longer audio features and two-way live appearances.

Investigative Reporter | Columbia Journalism Investigations and New York Focus; New York | Sept. 2023 - Sept. 2025

- Led a team in most in-depth investigation of conviction integrity units (CIUs) to date; uncovered more than two dozen cases where New York's units failed innocent people and dozens more where they ignored or obscured prosecutorial misconduct.
- Built a first-of-its-kind database of conviction review applicants in New York, analyzing thousands of government records and court filings while synthesizing hundreds of interviews with exonerees, defense attorneys, prosecutors and legal experts.
- Award-winning series was syndicated by multiple publications, cited in state legislative hearings and spurred calls for oversight.

Enterprise and Narrative Reporter | The San Francisco Chronicle; San Francisco | Feb. 2015 - Aug. 2022

Enterprise Writer (2021-2022): Investigated the pandemic's impact on a rural Bay Area county, political shifts in Southern California school boards and a state environmental tool that cost San Francisco tens of millions in funding.

Narrative Writer (2020-2021): One of five reporters assigned to document the pandemic's toll through in-depth storytelling. Led a project on "essential workers," explored generational conflicts over illness and captured daily disruptions—from grieving without funerals to the mental health crisis and unmarked life milestones—in front-page stories.

Feature Writer (2018-2020): Helped launch a magazine-style section, reporting on subjects from climate change to the tech industry. Profiled figures like writer Rebecca Solnit and controversial UCSF physician Monica Gandhi.

Arts and Culture Writer (2015-2018): Covered art, music and nightlife, shaping coverage of the Bay Area's cultural landscape. Authored a groundbreaking story on an eight-year-old trans child that won local and national writing awards.

Politics Reporter | The Oregonian; Portland, Ore. | Sept. 2010 - Nov. 2013

- Covered Oregon State Legislature and Portland City Hall with heavy focus on accountability journalism.
- Authored investigative pieces and long-form features; built multimedia guide to citizen lobbying; established PolitiFact Oregon.

English Professor | Al-Neelain University; Khartoum, Sudan | Nov. 2009 - July 2010

- Taught listening and speaking courses; planned and led workshop series for Sudanese journalists; wrote and edited grants.

Politics Reporter | The Associated Press; Portland, Ore. | Oct. 2008 - Oct. 2009

- Covered state Legislature; wrote several national features, including an investigation into stimulus-related job creation claims.

SKILLS & RECOGNITION

Investigative: FOIA requests, PACER, tax/property records, campaign finance documents, archival research, internet forensics.

Data: Database building and cleaning, data diary best practices, intermediate analysis with pivot tables, formulas and AI tools.

Multimedia: Photography, video and audio editing; proficient in Photoshop, InDesign, Final Cut Pro, Figma, Canva and Audacity.

Languages: Conversational in French and Spanish; capable of basic interviews, reporting and reading.

Awards and Grants: Investigative, feature and news writing recognized by the New York News Publishers Association, INN, SPJ, NLGJA, NYPA, JANY, California News Publishers Association and SPJ Northwest; led the team behind a 2026 Livingston Award finalist; received reporting grants from the Fund for Investigative Journalism and the Ira A. Lipman Center for Journalism.

EDUCATION

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism | Master of Arts: Politics and Social Issues | May 2023

- Coursework across Columbia Law School, Mailman School of Public Health and Journalism School in mental health law, homelessness, drug policy, mass incarceration, corporate malfeasance and investigative techniques.
- Won *best thesis* for investigation into a rule shielding jails from medical negligence liability; published by *The Marshall Project*.

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Arizona State University

Summa Cum Laude with bachelor's degrees in journalism and French and a Spanish minor. Served as editor in chief of student newspaper. Completed internships at *The Boston Globe*, *The Oregonian*, *The Arizona Republic* and *The Tampa Bay Tribune*. Graduated from Barrett, the Honors College. Studied abroad at Université Catholique de Lille, France.