

Bethany Ao

JOURNALIST

Experience

THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER

City Life reporter
Philadelphia, PA
November 2017 – present

- I report for the Arts and Lifestyle desks at the Inquirer, focusing on service-oriented journalism.
- I explore a variety of topics in my reporting, including everything from how to get started in the sport of boxing to the best escape rooms in town to goat racing at a local brewery. I also write timely, tight pieces related to any major events happening in the city, such as the Super Bowl.

THE BOSTON GLOBE

Living Arts intern
Boston, MA
June 2017 – September 2017

- I reported for the Living Arts desk at the Globe, finding unexpected Boston-specific stories that resonated with our audiences.
- I wrote stories about a three-generation Pakistani-American family celebrating Fourth of July in the age of Trump, a woman trying to change an outdated Boston law about pet pigs, and a mural inspired by the experiences of incarcerated women. Two of my stories were printed on the front page this summer.

THE DENVER POST

Features intern
Denver, CO
June 2016 – August 2016

- I covered Denver culture for 10 weeks on the features desk, writing over 70 stories.
- I pitched stories that brought health, education, environmental and LGBTQ issues into the Post's features coverage. I wrote about a Colorado composer's struggle with postpartum OCD, a transgender male model's aspirations, and a group of Kosovar artists who painted with American muralists to show unity during a tense political time.

WEEKEND ARGUS

News intern
Cape Town, South Africa
March 2016 – June 2016

- I worked for 10 weeks at a weekend paper in Cape Town for my Journalism Residency. I covered breaking news, including crime and political protests, as well as features while there.
- I completed an in-depth eight article series on the discrimination the city's transgender community faces, including long waits for surgery and backlogs for gender changes on ID cards.

Education

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN JOURNALISM, MAGNA CUM LAUDE

Northwestern University
Medill School of Journalism
Evanston, IL
June 2017

Semester abroad at Charles University
Prague, Czech Republic
2015

Awards

AAJA-PHILADELPHIA JOHN CURLEY SCHOLARSHIP
2018

AAJA-COLUMBIA JOURNALISM SCHOOL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
2017

RICK WAMRE HYPER-LOCAL FELLOWSHIP
Medill Fellowship Program
2015

Skills & Involvement

LANGUAGES

High proficiency in Mandarin Chinese

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat

PROJECTS

ProPublica Illinois Audience Engagement with Medill's Knight Lab (conducted media engagement research for PPIL ahead of 2017 launch)