

Isabel Koyama

Journalist



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Summary

An early career reporter with a love of cross-cultural learning and an enterprising mindset. Driven to hold the rich and powerful accountable while providing readers with timely, relevant, contextualized coverage that catalyzes, however slowly, justice and social change.

Education

MASTER OF ARTS — DEC 2021
INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM

Walter Cronkite School of
Journalism & Mass Communication

- **Grade Point Average: 3.50**
- **HONORS:** *The Roy W. Howard Fellowship*

BACHELOR OF ARTS — MAY 2016
ANTHROPOLOGY

Bates College

- **Grade Point Average: 3.84**
- **HONORS:** *Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, the Bates College Key, Honors thesis in Anthropology*

Skills and Interests

LANGUAGE: Conversationally fluent in Bahasa Indonesia and Malaysian

TECHNICAL: Microsoft Suite; Adobe Audition, Photoshop, Premier; Logic Pro; Slack; Airtable; Data analysis in R and Microsoft Excel; SEO; Canva Design

MUSICAL: Directed musical productions in college; performed lead vocals in college jazz ensemble, sang at weddings and funerals ad hoc; sang in elite choirs; arranged pop songs for A Cappella performance in college.

Industry Experience

COMMUNITY STORYTELLING REPORTER MAY 2022 - SEPT 2022

The Burlington County Times (USA Today), Cherry Hill, NJ

- Covered South Jersey communities broadly, with particular attention to under-reported townships and counties the Burlington County Times had been neglecting.
- Filed public record requests under New Jersey's Open Public Records Act to corroborate and contextualize stories.
- Contributed to daily breaking news cycle and retail/commercial development updates.
- Followed cannabis regulations and trends in the newly legalized state economy.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER AUG 2021 — DEC 2021

The Howard Center for Investigative Journalism, Phoenix, AZ

- Served as lead writer on Chapter 4 of GASLIT, an EPPY award-winning, data-driven investigation into methane emissions from the US oil and gas industry.
- Used R to analyze enormous state datasets of oil and gas emissions.
- Compiled an Airtable database of oil and gas companies' financial records, annual reports and green energy commitments to familiarize myself with their language, corporate practices and litigation history.
- Led in-person interviews with key sources and shot environmental photographs during a week-long field reporting trip in New Mexico.
- Helped script and edit an audio piece on Farmington, New Mexico, a small city where the oil and gas industry reigns — but not without dissidence.

BUSINESS REPORTER MAY 2021 — AUG 2021

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Milwaukee, WI

- Wrote for a national digital audience on business, economy, retail, development and breaking news across the Milwaukee area.
- Collaborated with associated regional papers on a statewide story covering summer tourism and worker shortages in Wisconsin.
- Reported on Wisconsin's red hot housing market driving prospective buyers to waive home inspections in bidding wars, a gamble that could spell expensive surprises later on.

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT REPORTER SEPT 2019 — DEC 2020

The Montague Reporter, Turners Falls, MA

- Pitched, researched and wrote weekly articles on small businesses, activist movements, environmental issues, COVID-19, cannabis and local governments for a small, independent print newspaper serving five towns in the Pioneer Valley.

Other Experience

GRADUATE WRITING TUTOR

FEB 2021 — AUG 2021

Academic Success Programs, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ

- Met with graduate and PhD students by appointment part time to advise and guide all stages of the writing process.
 - Assisted students with formatting, citation styles, grammar, sentence flow and organization.
 - Used Zoom annotation tools and reliable digital resources to aid in tutoring.
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FARM HAND

APR 2020 — JUL 2020

Upinngil Farm, Gill, MA

- Planted and harvested strawberries; helped direct customers to pick their own strawberries.
 - Gardened, bottled raw cow's milk, assisted with food prep in the farm store bakery, took inventory in the farm store, stocked shelves
 - Enforced store COVID-19 hygiene, including an hourly sanitation regimen of high-touch surfaces.
 - Helped customers check out using SNAP and other payment methods on the store POS system.
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YOUTH ORCHESTRA MANAGER

AUG 2019 — MAY 2020

Pioneer Valley Symphony Orchestra, Greenfield, MA

- Coordinated student registration, music copying, organization and distribution; attendance, auditions and set-up for rehearsals/concerts. Posted and promoted flyers for upcoming concerts.
 - Communicated consistently with parents and youth in weekly emails distilling important updates and reminders.
 - Helped youth orchestra members learn their music, tune their instruments and manage their music folders.
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TEFL TEACHER/TEACHER TRAINER

MAR 2017 - MAY 2019

US Peace Corps, West Java, Indonesia

- Taught English as a second language with Indonesian educators in a public high school for four consecutive semesters.
 - Designed and implemented educational projects like a school-wide English club, a world map mural, pen pal exchanges, conversation workshops and regional "English competitions."
 - Led intersectional workshops on gender, race, and student-centered teaching methods.
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WORKAWAY VOLUNTEER

SEPT 2016 — NOV 2016

Japan, multiple locations

- Promoted cultural festivals on social media for the Maniwa tourism office in Okayama Prefecture for a month.
 - Landscaped and gardened in Itoshima for an up and coming hostel.
 - Cooked, cleaned and served customers in a small cafe on Naoshima island.
 - Checked in guests and kept house at a hostel in Kyoto.
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STAFF COORDINATOR

JUNE 2016 — SEPT 2016

World Fellowship Center, Albany, NH

Seasonal work

- Managed onboarding, scheduling, housing arrangements and social events for a diverse staff of 40+ employees and volunteers.
 - Facilitated weekly staff meetings, manager meetings and bi-weekly individual check-ins with staff members.
 - Filled in with housekeeping, serving, kitchen prep and childcare as needed.
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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INTERN

AUG 2014 — NOV 2014

READ-Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan

- Held discussions with Bhutanese women on gender, reproductive health and women's issues.
 - Taught a weekly music and singing class to kids ages 5-12.
 - Co-led English lessons and organized cross-cultural exchange activities.
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Reference:

(More references available upon request)

Jim Nelson

Business Editor

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

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