

# Ali Gostanian

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## **EDUCATION**

**Johns Hopkins University - School of Advanced International Studies** (Washington, D.C.)

*Master of International Public Policy* (May 2025) | GPA: 4.0

- Focus: Security, Strategy & Statecraft; Governance, Politics & Society
- Regional Expertise: Middle East & United States
- Developed skills in policy analysis, strategic communications, and geopolitical risk assessment, focusing on international security, disinformation, and governance.

**Fordham University** (Bronx, NY)

*Bachelor of Arts – Communications & Media Studies, Journalism, Business Administration* (May 2015) | GPA: 3.62, Cum Laude

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Walmart** (Washington, D.C.)

*Graduate Student Consultant* (November 2024 – February 2025)

- Developed and implemented a strategic policy framework (C-A-R-E) to address gaps in folic acid awareness, aligning Walmart's public health efforts with business objectives.
- Conducted in-depth market research across Walmart locations, identifying key barriers to folic acid uptake and proposing actionable solutions to improve product accessibility.
- Led a cross-functional team of four consultants, collaborating with Walmart's Public Affairs team and external stakeholders to design a scalable, cost-effective strategy for increasing consumer engagement.
- Proposed a data-driven social media campaign utilizing "momfluencers," projected to reach millions of at-risk consumers, enhancing awareness of fortified products.
- Negotiated stakeholder buy-in from advocacy organizations, including UnidosUS, to support policy initiatives that can impact statewide fortification legislation.
- Presented high-impact recommendations to Walmart executives, demonstrating the ROI of public health investments, leading to discussions on product fortification expansion.
- Drove collaboration across business units and policymakers, leveraging Walmart's influence to advocate for folic acid legislation in key states.

**NBC News** (New York, NY)

*Senior Reporter & Producer / Weekend Manager, Social Newsgathering* (November 2021 – August 2024)

- Led policy-focused investigative reporting on national security, disinformation campaigns, and geopolitical crises.
- Managed a team covering global conflicts, election security, and foreign influence operations on social media.
- Developed risk assessment frameworks for identifying and verifying international news stories related to cybersecurity, misinformation, and global governance.
- Conducted open-source intelligence (OSINT) analysis to track disinformation and security threats.
- Collaborated with various NBC News teams to uphold high levels of standards and ethics in reporting.
- Provided newsgathering training and mentorship to new hires.

**NBC News** (New York, NY)

*Reporter & Producer, Social Newsgathering* (January 2018 – November 2021)

- Investigated foreign influence operations and election security issues, integrating policy analysis into reporting.
- Used data-driven storytelling to uncover social and political trends shaping U.S. and global affairs.
- Discovered, verified, and produced engaging content and reporting for all NBC News platforms.
- Utilized open-source tools to discover sources and characters for enterprise and breaking news stories.

**NBC News (New York, NY)**

*Assignment Editor, National News Desk (May 2016 – January 2018)*

- Acted as a liaison between the network and producers/correspondents in the field.
- Gathered and verified elements for use by digital platforms and national programs.
- Covered breaking news for all NBCU platforms, including NBC News, MSNBC, and social media/digital.
- Coordinated coverage of major national events, ensuring accurate and timely reporting.

**NBC News (New York, NY)**

*Researcher, National News Desk (July 2015 – May 2016)*

- Conducted in-depth policy research for breaking news coverage, providing insights on legislative and global security issues.
- Acted as a liaison between the network and producers/correspondents in the field.
- Gathered and verified elements for use by digital platforms and national programs.
- Assisted in the development of story ideas and coverage plans.

**SKILLS**

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|---|--|
| ● Foreign Policy & Geopolitical Risk Assessment | ● Crisis Communications & Risk Mitigation    |
| ● Middle East Policy & Security                 | ● Strategic Communications & Policy Analysis |
| ● Economic & Trade Policy                       | ● Media & Public Affairs Strategy            |
| ● Disinformation, Influence Operations & OSINT  | ● Proficient in Spanish & Mandarin Chinese   |
| ● Social Media, AI & Emerging Tech Policy       |  |

**AWARDS**

- [News Emmy Award](#) (2022): Outstanding Live Breaking News Coverage – January 6 Attack on the Capitol
- [RTDNA National Murrow Awards](#) (2020, 2021, 2022)
- [New York Press Club Award](#) (2020): Feature – Science, Medicine & Technology
- [SPJ Sigma Delta Chi Award](#) for Excellence in Professional Journalism (2020)
- Nine News Emmy Nominations (2017-2024)

**AFFILIATIONS & LEADERSHIP**

- Member, Women’s Foreign Policy Group
- Awards Judge & Member, National Press Club
- Member & Mentor, Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA)
- Career Development Chair, SAIS Global Women in Leadership
- Committee Member, Student Government Association
- Member, SAIS Technology Club