

MARION APIO

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SUMMARY

Communications and Program Coordination Specialist with experience across higher education, journalism, policy research, and Mastercard Foundation Scholars programming. Experienced in developing digital communications, producing scholar and program impact stories, coordinating educational activities, managing web and multi-channel content, and engaging diverse stakeholders across Africa and the United States. **A Mastercard Foundation Scholar alumna and Transformative Leader** with direct experience supporting Transformative Leadership Learning, scholar engagement, peer-to-peer learning, and alumni communications. Strong researcher and storyteller skilled at translating complex policy, research, and program outcomes into accessible content for academic, institutional, and public audiences.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Journalist and Data Analyst | University of California, Berkeley | Berkeley, CA | *Aug 2023 – Present*

- Conduct research and reporting on public policy, healthcare access, housing, and community issues, translating complex issues into accurate, accessible, public-facing stories.
- Report on local government, public policy, and city council proceedings for *Richmond Confidential*, *Oakland North*, and the *Los Angeles News Observer*.
- Coordinate interviews and communications with community members, government officials, researchers, service providers, and other stakeholders to develop evidence-based narratives.
- Developed a centralized database to track and audit media safety incidents and used quantitative analysis and Datawrapper to produce visual reports and communicate findings to diverse audiences.
- Co-produced a 30-minute documentary with the **UC Berkeley Human Rights Center**, coordinating field interviews with human rights defenders and media practitioners and contributing to research, production, and storytelling.
- Collaborate within a multidisciplinary university environment with editors, researchers, faculty, community organizations, and institutional partners.

Co-Founder | Debunk Media Initiative & Girls Alive Uganda | Kampala, Uganda | *Nov 2019 – Present*

- Co-developed strategic communications and civic engagement initiatives focused on media literacy, information integrity, and community participation.
- Authored successful grant proposals and strategic pitches that secured more than **\$200,000** for civic technology, media literacy, and community-focused initiatives.
- Developed and managed partnerships with media organizations, civil society organizations, and educational networks reaching more than **3,500 trainees**.
- Coordinate participant engagement, training activities, stakeholder communications, and program documentation across organizational initiatives.
- Lead digital content and public communications, translating complex issues around misinformation, technology, and civic participation for diverse audiences.
- Design participant-facing materials, including certificates and communications resources, and use surveys and feedback to inform program activities.

Digital Communications Lead | Baobab Scholars Platform | Phoenix, AZ | *Jun 2018 – Mar 2022*

- Led digital communications supporting **Mastercard Foundation Transformative Leadership** programming, developing multi-channel campaigns that generated more than **100,000 views** and strengthened engagement with scholar-focused content.
- Managed the end-to-end production of an **Alumni Magazine featuring 170 scholar profiles and impact stories**, reaching an international network of more than **10,000 Mastercard Foundation Scholars** and

alumni.

- Coordinated scholar interviews and scheduling for the **Cultural Shock** interview series, managing participant communications and logistics while producing digital stories for the scholar community.
- Collaborated with instructional design teams to review and improve online professional development courses, including *How to Network* and *How to Make Your Point in One Minute or Less*, supporting participant-facing learning materials.
- Led a global team of **Baobab Ambassadors**, coordinating onboarding, communications, and peer-to-peer learning activities to strengthen scholar engagement and retention.
- Managed digital content across social media and online platforms, using audience engagement data to inform content development and communications decisions.

Communications and Policy Analyst | Pollicy Limited | Kampala, Uganda | Dec 2021 – Oct 2022

- Designed and implemented strategic communications initiatives focused on women's participation, leadership, and civic technology.
- Coordinated stakeholder engagement involving government institutions, civil society organizations, media organizations, and community stakeholders.
- Produced policy communications materials, data-driven stories, training materials, blog posts, and podcast scripts for diverse audiences.
- Conducted surveys and gathered stakeholder feedback to support communications, program learning, and engagement activities.
- Translated complex policy and research findings into accessible communications for public engagement and advocacy.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor | African American Studies Department, UC Berkeley | Fall 2024

- Supported course delivery and student engagement, developing and adapting instructional materials and facilitating learning activities.

Media & Information Literacy Trainer | Deutsche Welle Akademie | Bonn, Germany | 2021 – 2023

- Delivered media and information literacy training and facilitated learning activities for diverse participants, adapting materials to different learning contexts.

EDUCATION

- **University of California, Berkeley | Berkeley, USA**
 - **Master of Journalism** | Aug 2023 – May 2025 GPA: 4.0/4.0
- **Makerere University | Kampala, Uganda**
 - **Bachelor of Arts in Journalism and Communication** | Aug 2016 – May 2021

CORE SKILLS

- **Communications:** Strategic Communications | Digital Content | Website/CMS | Newsletters | Social Media | Editorial Strategy | Visual Storytelling | Impact Storytelling | Audience Engagement
- **Program Coordination:** Participant Engagement | Scheduling & Logistics | Stakeholder Coordination | Learning Activities | Program Documentation | Feedback & Evaluation | Event Coordination
- **Research & Data:** Qualitative & Quantitative Research | Policy Analysis | Data Verification | Data Visualization | Impact Research | Media & Information Literacy
- **Tools:** Excel | Airtable | Datawrapper | KoboToolbox | Notion | Asana | Slack | Canva | CMS Platforms | Social Media Analytics