

Vandana Ravikumar

vandanaisabelle@gmail.com · @vandana_rav

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Mercury News

August 2022-Present

Local Reporter (Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara)

I'm currently a local reporter for The Mercury News, one of the largest daily news organizations in California. I cover Cupertino, Sunnyvale and Santa Clara, and have had the opportunity to cover a wide variety of community stories in a nuanced, thoughtful and accurate manner. I've also gotten to sharpen my skills covering local government and breaking dense, often inaccessible topics into digestible stories that appeal to a wide audience.

August 2021-August 2022

McClatchy News

Reporter, National Real-Time Team

As a reporter on McClatchy's National Real-Time Team, I aggregated national breaking and trending news, writing several stories a day that ran on McClatchy sites all over the country. I primarily focused on western region coverage, but frequently covered stories from elsewhere in the country as well. This position also included original reporting when time permitted.

The State Press/Arizona State University

Jan 2020-May 2020

Editor, The Echo

I directed arts and culture coverage for The State Press, Arizona State University's largest student-run media organization. Our coverage of arts and culture pivoted to meet the circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in March, and included feature coverage and essays about the pandemic and its effect on students. I also stepped in to report occasionally in order to meet the needs of the newsroom.

Arizona PBS/Cronkite News

Aug 2019-Dec 2019

Washington Correspondent

Aug 2018-Dec 2018

I covered the immigration and borderlands beats in the Washington bureau of Cronkite News Service during the fall semesters of my junior and senior years of college. In that role, I pitched and reported daily and enterprise stories on border enforcement and civil rights issues. I frequently reported from Capitol Hill, the White House, the Supreme Court, and elsewhere. My work was published in the Associated Press, Arizona Mirror, Tucson Daily Star, and more.

USA Today/Gannett

June 2019 -Aug 2019

Breaking News Intern

As a breaking news intern based in USA Today's Los Angeles bureau, I reported breaking news and enterprise stories on national politics, viral trends, and more. My work was featured on USA Today's website and newspaper, as well as in USA Today/Gannett network papers and websites nationwide.

The State Press/Arizona State University

Jan 2019-May 2019

Editor, Politics Desk

In this role, I directed politics coverage for the largest student-run media organization at Arizona State University. This was a semester of heightened political controversy and unrest on campus, and I guided my team of 5 reporters in covering stories about local, state and national politics; race and racism on campus; campus government and leadership; and white supremacy and the conduct of members of the alt-right at ASU.

EDUCATION

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism, Arizona State University

Aug 2016-May 2020

Bachelor of Arts, Journalism (minor in Political Science)