

MARIE K. SHANAHAN

CURRICULUM VITAE

ACADEMIC & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor of Journalism, August 2011-present

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

- Tenured faculty member as of May 2018. Academic research focuses on the intersection of journalism, interactive communication technology, digital discourse, free speech, digital reputation and online news ethics.
- Cited by local, national and international news media for expertise in online commenting and social media.
- Ongoing activity as freelance journalist producing news content for professional news outlets.
- Teach undergraduate students digital newsgathering, data visualization and multimedia storytelling techniques. Launched weekly email newsletter and podcast produced by UConn Journalism students.
- Service contributions include advising journalism majors, administering department social media accounts and providing digital production and audience engagement training to non-profit news organizations in Connecticut.

Adjunct Journalism Professor, June 2009 – July 2011

Quinnipiac University Graduate Journalism Program, Hamden, Connecticut

Instructed graduate journalism students in digital newsgathering and storytelling techniques, including reporting, writing, editing, audio/video and interactive online presentation.

Regional Editor, Connecticut, July 2010-July 2011

AOL/Patch.com, New York, New York

Responsible for the hiring, launch, development and management of 10 local news websites in north central Connecticut for Patch.com. Leadership role involved recruiting talent, training local editors and freelancers, building team dynamic among journalists working remotely, and managing quality of each site.

Deputy Online Editor, February 2008-June 2010

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, Connecticut

Leadership role in improving and expanding the presentation of all facets of news content on courant.com, including stories, photo galleries, blogs, databases, video, graphics, and user-generated content. Trained newsroom in best practices of digital journalism. Monitored metrics. Engaged audiences with social media.

Senior Online Producer/Online Producer, August 1999-January 2008

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, Connecticut

Shaped the evolution of ctnow.com into a must-visit, entertainment website for residents and visitors to Connecticut. Daily production of courant.com home page and other major sections. Reported and designed original content for special online packages. Collaborated with editors and reporters on breaking news.

Reporter, June 1994-July 1999

The Hartford Courant, Hartford, Connecticut

Covered news originating from Windsor, a diverse suburban community of 30,000 people, and urban issues in Connecticut's capital city of Hartford. Published more than 1,100 news articles. Co-developed a column called 'Excerpts,' published from 1996-2000, which allowed journalists under the age of 30 to explore timely lifestyle issues.

EDUCATION

M.S. in Interactive Communications, October 2010

Quinnipiac University, Hamden, Connecticut

Master's Thesis: "Harm to Reputation in the Form of Online Free Speech: Lessons for Journalists in the Digital Age"

B.A. Honors in Journalism and History, May 1994

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

Honors Thesis: "Philippine News Media: Bribes, Intimidation Undermine Press Freedom."

Inducted into Delta-Omicron chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

BOOK

Journalism, Online Comments and Future of Public Discourse

Routledge/Taylor & Francis, September 2017

This academic book examines how news-related public discussions function within our deliberative democracy and how journalism's challenge to be a conversation rather than a lecture in the digital age is thwarted by design defects and the obstacles of participatory online culture. Through original interviews, anecdotes and summaries of research literature, the book argues for news organizations to show greater leadership in online public discourse and to use journalistic rigor and better design to add value to citizens' comments above the polarized social layer.

OTHER RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"What are some important tips for newspapers to consider regarding digital discourse?" February 2019. *Editor & Publisher*. <https://issuu.com/dmcinc/docs/february-2019-editor-and-publisher/14>

"Newsrooms take the comment sections back from platforms." December 14, 2018. *Nieman Journalism Lab*, Harvard University. Invited contributor to Predictions for Journalism 2019. <https://www.niemanlab.org/2018/12/newsrooms-take-the-comments-sections-back-from-platforms/>

"What aren't people getting from the media? Civil conversations." February 20, 2018. *The Hartford Courant*. <https://www.courant.com/opinion/hc-op-shanahan-want-from-the-news-20180219-story.html>

"Hazardous chemical storage in Connecticut" [Interactive map]. December 13, 2017. *Connecticut Health Investigative Team* – www.c-hit.org. Data shows the 27 Connecticut facilities required to submit disaster response plans to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"How many Connecticut drivers have been ticketed for texting?" [Interactive news graphic]. September 6, 2017. *Connecticut Health Investigative Team* – www.c-hit.org. Data shows monthly totals for citations issued to drivers violating Connecticut's 14-296aa statute, which bans drivers from using mobile electronic devices.

"How news sites' online comments helped build our hateful electorate." December 14, 2016. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/how-news-sites-online-comments-helped-build-our-hateful-electorate-70170>. Republished by 23 other news outlets including *Newsweek*, *Salon*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Yahoo News*, *Associated Press*, *Scroll.In*, *Raw Story*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Houston Chronicle*, *San Antonio Express News*, *Connecticut Post* and *UConn Today*.

"Asthma hospitalization rates in Connecticut," [Interactive news graphic]. September 2016. *Connecticut Health Investigative Team* – www.c-hit.org. Data compared rate by town of residence, ER visits and number of hospitalizations.

"Yes, Campuses Should Be Safe Spaces - for Debate." January 31, 2016. *Chronicle of Higher Education*. [https://www.chronicle.com/article/Yes-Campuses-Should-Be-Safe/235114](http://www.chronicle.com/article/Yes-Campuses-Should-Be-Safe/235114)

"FAA Green Lights Drone Use for Connecticut Businesses." May 17, 2015. A1. *Hartford Courant*

"Breastfeeding Rates on the Rise, As Mother-Baby Support Systems Expand." December 28, 2014. *Connecticut Health Investigative Team*. <http://c-hit.org/2014/12/28/breastfeeding-rates-on-the-rise-as-mother-baby-support-systems-expand>. Republished by *Hartford Courant*, *New Haven Register*, *Torrington Register Citizen*, *Middletown Press*, *WNPR.org*, *Stamford Advocate*, *Connecticut Post*, *Danbury News Times*, *Greenwich Time* and *Associated Press*

"Connecticut College Campus Sexual Assault Rates, 2009-2013" [Interactive news graphic]. October 30, 2014. *Connecticut Health Investigative Team* – www.c-hit.org.

"Media: Radical Shift in Control of the News." October 19, 2014. *Hartford Courant*. <https://www.courant.com/courant-250/your-moments/hc-courant-future-media-20141018-story.html>

"On Connecticut's 'Gold Coast,' a Local News Incubator." March 25, 2014. *Columbia Journalism Review*. https://archives.cjr.org/behind_the_news/fairfield_county_local_news.php.

"How Talk Radio Listens to its Audience, Provides Lessons for Online Publishers." March 4, 2014. *The Poynter Institute*. <https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2014/how-talk-radio-listens-to-its-audience-provides-lessons-for-online-publishers/>

"More News Organizations Try Civilizing Online Comments with the Help of Social Media." July 16, 2013. *The Poynter Institute*. <https://www.poynter.org/reporting-editing/2013/more-news-organizations-try-civilizing-online-comments-with-the-help-of-social-media/>

SCHOLARLY PRESENTATIONS

"Build Your Digital Toolbox — Social Media." Presented at NENPA University, New London, Connecticut. March 20, 2018. Invited speaker. Discussed how journalists can use social media to engage the audience using and report big breaking news stories. Day-long seminar hosted by New England Society of News Editors.

"The Price of Free Speech." Invited panelist at symposia at Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, Connecticut. November 15, 2017. Discussed the issues that underscore the tricky line between hate speech and free speech in online public discourse.

"Women's Voices in Online Comments." Presented at Hartford History Center, Hartford, Connecticut. March 29, 2017. Addressed the problem of participation inequality and the disproportionate harassment of women in online forums. Moderated a panel discussion with columnist Susan Campbell and UConn student activist Haddiyah Ali.

"How Writers Can Leverage Social Media." Presented at Mark Twain House & Museum, 5th Annual Writers Weekend. Hartford, Connecticut. September 24, 2016.

"To Comment or Not to Comment." Presented at 2015 Excellence in Journalism conference. Orlando, Florida. September 19, 2015. Discussed how journalists wrangle online conversation around their content and use it to build audience and community, versus why some news organizations are choosing to end online commenting.

"A Visualization Initiation," Presented at 2015 Journalism/Interactive Conference Teach-a-Thon, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri. April 24, 2015. Demonstrated to national audience of journalism educators my methods for introducing students to data visualization concepts.

"Media and Limits to Free Speech in the 21st Century," UConn Global House, Storrs, Connecticut. April 6, 2015. Invited panelist. Discussed ways online expression is hindered and censored by governments, intermediaries, terrorists and public shaming.

"The New Data Journalism." Connecticut Data Collaborative Conference: Data Driven Connecticut. Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. November 21, 2014. Invited panelist at forum exploring new developments and trends in data-driven reporting and data journalism.

"Activism, Community and Social Media." Windsor Historical Society, Windsor, Connecticut. January 20, 2014. Invited featured speaker at Martin Luther King Day panel discussion about social media use in inspiring activism.

"Breaking News: Does Social Media Get It Right?" UConn Center for Learning in Retirement, Storrs, Connecticut. October 9, 2013. Invited guest lecturer on journalism's use of social media and its mistakes.

"Our Digital Shadows: Journalists and Online Reputation." Presented at 2013 Excellence in Journalism Conference. Anaheim, CA. August 26, 2013. Explained how journalists can critically evaluate and manage their professional digital reputations.

"Journalists and Digital Reputation." Invited presenter at 2013 National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association (NLGJA) Convention and 9th LGBT Media Summit. Boston, Massachusetts. August 23, 2013.

"Covering Newtown: How News Organizations Used/Misused Social Media." Panelist at University of Connecticut Journalism Department discussion, Storrs, Connecticut. April 19, 2013. Examined the breaking news coverage of the December 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

"Rate Your Online Reputation." Presenter at 2013 Journalism/Interactive Conference Teach-a-Thon, University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida. February 8, 2013. Demonstrated to national audience of journalism educators how to get students to think critically about their digital footprints.

"Digital Communication Technologies and Citizen Journalism." Invited guest speaker at Hofstra University, Winter Journalism Seminar, Hempstead, New York, January 7, 2010.

"Networking: The Value of Conversation." Invited guest speaker at Travelers Information Technology Leadership Development Program Annual Session, Hartford, Connecticut, October 22, 2009.

"Reinventing the Newspaper." Panelist at Central Connecticut State University conference, "Journalism - Where We Are; Where We're Going," New Britain, Connecticut, November 13, 2008.

EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS

Board of Directors, The Connecticut News Project, Inc., 2017 – present. Executive committee member. This non-profit organization publishes *The Connecticut Mirror* – www.ctmirror.org, and is an advocate of vigorous coverage of government and public policy essential to the common good.

Board of Directors, Connecticut Health Investigative Team, 2012 – present. The non-profit Connecticut Health Investigative Team is dedicated to producing original, responsible, in-depth journalism on issues of health and safety in Connecticut and the surrounding region. C-HIT is a member of the national Investigative News Network and its stories are published by news media organizations across Connecticut.

Board of Directors, Connecticut Foundation for Open Government, July 2017 – present. Communications committee chair, Newsletter editor. This not-for-profit corporation founded in 1991 by citizens of Connecticut aims to promote open government and the public's right-to-know by educating policymakers and citizens on the need for a free flow of information on all public policy matters.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, MEMBERSHIPS

- Professional Memberships: Online News Association (ONA); Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ); Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA); Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE); Journalism and Women's Symposium (JAWS); American Society of Journalists and Authors (ASJA); Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communications (AEJMC).
- Judge, Online Journalism Awards, July 2017 and July 2018
- Founding member of ONA Local chapter, Western New England, August 2016.
- Awarded \$5,000 Public Discourse Project grant from University of Connecticut Humanities Institute to support academic book project, November 2015.
- Awarded fellowship to attend Association of Opinion Journalists Minority Writers Seminar, November 2015, The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, FL.
- National Judge, Sigma Delta Chi Awards, Society of Professional Journalists, 2012 and 2013.
- Regional Judge, Livingston Awards for Young Journalists, 2009 and 2010.
- Professional Advisory Committee Member, University of Connecticut Journalism Department, 2009-2011
- Professional Advisory Committee Member, Hartford Journalism & Media Academy, 2010
- New England Associated Press News Executives Association Online Awards:
 - 2008: Best Overall Site, Best Entertainment Section
 - 2006: Best Entertainment Section
 - 2005: Best Entertainment Section
 - 2003: Best Special Section: "Complicity"
 - 2001: Overall Excellence
- Knight-Batten Awards, 2003: Notable Entry, "Complicity"
- National Education Writers Association Awards, 1997: Best Special Section, 2nd Place