

OLIVIA PASCHAL

olivia.paschal13@gmail.com | oliviapaschal.com

EDUCATION

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. PhD student studying the rural 20th century United States through the lens of capitalism, labor, and place. Expected graduation 2026.

Yale University, New Haven, CT. B.A., History with distinction, May 2018.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2022

Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Summer Research Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2022

Editing & Public Scholarship Fellow, Made by History at the Washington Post & GAGE at UVA, 2022

Graduate Fellow in the John L. Nau III History & Principles of Democracy Lab, Democracy Initiative, University of Virginia, 2021-22

WORKSHOPS

Phd+ at UVA / Writing Op-Eds: Translating Your Research to a Broad Audience October-November 2021

Participated in month-long series on making academic research accessible to broad audiences.

EMPLOYMENT

Freelance Writer & Editor / [Clips](#) 2017-present

Write and report on food systems, agriculture, Walmart and the Walton family, Arkansas, and the South for outlets including HuffPost, CivilEats, Southerly, Scalawag, The Nation, Grid News, and Dwell.

Facing South / Archives Editor August 2021-present

Managing archive digitization and web redesign project for 4 decades of award-winning *Southern Exposure* magazine archives.

Republish and contextualize relevant articles; recent examples [here](#) and [here](#). Sit on hiring committee for Julian Bond Fellowship.

Virginia Quarterly Review / Editorial Assistant January 2022-present

One Small Step / Project Assistant December 2021-present

Facing South / Staff Reporter / Durham, NC & Fayetteville, AR / August 2019-August 2021

Investigative and features reporter covering the rural South, agriculture, health care, politics, and policy. Spearheaded & led reporting for [year-long investigative series](#) on the poultry processing industry in the South during the pandemic, focused in Arkansas. Worked with local and regional newspapers to publish investigations in Spanish and Marshallese and distribute reporting widely around the state and region (including rural weeklies). Part of hiring committee for Julian Bond Fellowship. Provide editing support as necessary.

The Atlantic / Editorial Fellow, Politics Desk / Washington, DC / [Clips](#) July 2018-June 2019

Reported on agriculture, Congress, and religion; traveled to New Bern, NC to report on [aftermath of Hurricane Florence](#) and to Baltimore to report on [the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at the crux of the sex-abuse crisis](#). Wrote and produced daily politics newsletter with over 100,000 subscribers. Assisted staff writers and editors, including religion writer Emma Green and politics writer Vann Newkirk, in research and fact-checking. Ran social media accounts. Managed pitch inbox.

Scott Stern / Researcher / New Haven, CT Spring 2018

Did substantial archival research on HIV/AIDS, the drug epidemic, and health care across three decades of New Haven newspaper and alt-weekly archives, primarily housed at Yale, for forthcoming article.

Steve Kornacki & HarperCollins / Researcher / Remote July 2017-March 2018

Researched and wrote endnotes for Kornacki's 2018 book *The Red and the Blue: The 1990s and the Birth of Political Tribalism*.

SELECTED PUBLIC-FACING WRITING

"[The Coin Standard](#)," *Laphams Quarterly*, Dec. 15, 2021.

"[The Disastrous Opening of One Arkansas School District](#)," *The Nation*, Aug. 30, 2021.

"[He had a BB gun. A cop had a semiautomatic rifle. Without warning, the officer fired five times](#)," *Arkansas Nonprofit News Network/Arkansas Times*, Aug. 8, 2021

"[Arkansas Marshallese commemorate 75th anniversary of U.S. nuclear testing](#)," *Facing South*, July 13, 2021.

"[A history of groundbreaking reporting on the South's poultry industry](#)," *Facing South*, June 1, 2021.

"[For Magaly Licolli, organizing poultry workers starts with learning together](#)," *Facing South*, June 1, 2021.

"[The long road to nuclear justice for the Marshallese people](#)," *Facing South*, April 2, 2021.

"[A conversation with Freeman Vines, maker of hanging tree guitars](#)," *Facing South*, Dec. 18, 2020.

"[George's poultry workers walk out in Arkansas to protest COVID-19 conditions](#)," *Facing South*, Dec. 8, 2020.

"[Descendants of Arkansas' Elaine Massacre victims push for restorative justice](#)," *Facing South*, Oct. 7, 2020.

"[COVID-19 pounded Arkansas poultry workers as government and industry looked on](#)," *Facing South*, Aug. 20, 2020.

"[How to reverse the rural South's rising incarceration rate](#)," *Facing South*, July 2, 2020.

"[The bitter history behind the highways occupied by protestors](#)," *Facing South*, June 5, 2020.

"[Women Who Farm Are Finally Getting Counted](#)," *HuffPost*, Feb. 9, 2020.

"[Food, power, and place in Northwest Arkansas](#)," *Scalawag*, Jan. 6, 2020.

"[Arkansas' Phillips County remembers the racial massacre American forgot](#)," *Facing South*, Oct. 4, 2019.

"[How to Change Policy Without Politicians](#)," *The Atlantic*, May 18, 2019.

"[Corporate 'multiculturalism' in Walmart's company town](#)," *Scalawag*, May 3, 2018.

"[The Berrigan Option](#)," *Brink Review of Books*, Feb. 27, 2018.

SCHOLARLY WORK

"In Black and White: Race, Narrative, and the Fight for Public Opinion after the Elaine Massacre, 1919-1925," Senior essay, Fall 2017-Spring 2018. Submitted to *Journal of Southern History*, invited to revise and resubmit.

"The Terms of Civilization: Interactions Between Choctaws and Missionaries in the Pre-Removal Period 1818-1830," Term paper for HIST 198J Race, Gender, and Jacksonian Democracy, Fall 2017. Unpublished.

"No Country for Agrarians: *The American Review* and the Failed Agrarian-Distributist Experiment of the 1930s," Term paper for HIST 101J The Long History of American Conservatism, Spring 2017. Unpublished.

"A New Rural Economy? The Manifestations of the Walmart Company Region in Northwest Arkansas," Term paper for PLSC 471 independent study on rural poverty, Fall 2016. Unpublished.

"White Blood, Black Blood: Southern Theologies of Sacrifice Reconstruction—Renaissance," Term paper for HIST 174J Religion, War, and the Meaning of America, Fall 2016. Unpublished.

"The Gospel of Ambition: Joseph Bardwell Lyman's Civil War 1846-1863," Term paper for HIST 215J The Art of Biography, Spring 2017. Unpublished.

"State RFRA Since Hobby Lobby: Expanded Protection at What Cost?" Term paper for RLST 271 Religion and Human Rights, Spring 2016. Unpublished.

HONORS

Honorable Mention, In-Depth Reporting / Arkansas Press Women Communications Contest May 2021
For 2020 reporting on COVID-19 in Arkansas poultry factories.

Distinction in the Major / Yale University Department of History May 2018

National Quality Work in Yale Publications / Poynter Fellowship in Journalism November 2017
“Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Abuse and Neglect in the County Jails of Arkansas,” cover story for Yale Politic selected by Poynter for commentary session with Ilena Silverman, Features Editor of the New York Times Magazine.

Director’s Fellow / Institution for Social and Policy Studies January-December 2017
Researched Arkansas prison policy and received further funding for journalistic and academic research into Walmart and the rural South.

INTERVIEWS & SPEAKING APPEARANCES

University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, Features Writing class, featured speaker discussing freelance writing. April 27, 2022.

University of Arkansas School of Journalism & Strategic Media, Honors Government and Media class, featured speaker discussing reporting on COVID in poultry plants, FOIA, non-traditional news outlets, reporting on and for marginalized communities, transition from journalism to graduate school. Sept. 15, 2021.

KUAF's Ozarks at Large, "[Facing South' reporter examines emails between Springdale mayor, Tyson](#)," by Zuzanna Sitek. Feb. 15, 2021. (15-minute segment)

KUAF & Fayetteville Public Library Town Hall accompanying Episode 3 of Movement That Never Was podcast. Featured panelist alongside Dr. Angie Maxwell (University of Arkansas) and Dr. Pearl Dowe (Emory University) discussing history of Southern electorate, the Southern Strategy in Arkansas, and current political organizing work in the state. Jan. 28, 2021.

University of Arkansas School of Journalism and Strategic Media, Honors Government and Media class, featured speaker discussing the challenges of reporting on government. Nov. 18, 2020.

University of Arkansas School of Journalism and Strategic Media, News Reporting class, featured speaker discussing tips for sourcing and finding stories. Oct. 20, 2020.

Reckon South’s Reckon Interview podcast, [A system broken by design: The politics of healthcare](#), by John Hammontree and R.L. Nave. September 7, 2020. (20-minute segment)

AL.com’s Outbreak Alabama podcast, [Astonishing disparities in the rural South](#), by Ben Flanagan. May 20, 2020. (10-minute segment)

Northwest Arkansas Community College, Creative Non-Fiction class, featured speaker discussing curiosity-driven narrative journalism projects and my piece "Food, Power, and Place in Northwest Arkansas." Feb. 25, 2020.

Northwest Arkansas Community College, Fundamentals of Journalism class, featured speaker discussing career path and life as a working writer. Feb. 25, 2020.

SKILLS

- Social media, including Twitter and Facebook
- Data analytics and visualization: Photoshop, Datawrapper, Tableau, Google Sheets, Excel, SPSS, SQL, + others upon inquiry
- Web publishing: Silverpop, Substack, Ghost, MailChimp, Wix, AirTable, Wordpress, Squarespace, Drupal, InDesign, search engine optimization (SEO)
- Web analytics software: Google Analytics, Chartbeat

LANGUAGES

Modern Hebrew (conversational), Latin (proficient), Marshallese (basic)