

ERIC DEGGANS

KNIGHT CHAIR, JOURNALISM AND MEDIA ETHICS

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Accomplished professional with extensive experience in journalism, media ethics, and teaching, adept at media analysis and broadcasting. Proven ability to foster ethical discourse and mentor emerging talents. Poised to leverage expertise as Knight Professor of Journalism and Media Ethics to enrich academic environments and inspire future media leaders.

EXPERIENCE

Knight Professor of Journalism and Media Ethics

July 2025 - Present | Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA

- Teach classes on journalism, media ethics and society through the school's Journalism and Mass communications department.
- Organize and implement Ethics Institutes twice every school year bringing notable professional journalists to the university for a two-day conference. Professional journalists present case studies exploring ethical challenges they faced in their work, exploring real world issues with students.
- The position is among 26 journalism chairs created and funded by the Knight Foundation at colleges across the country.

Critic at Large

September 2025 - Present | National Public Radio, Washington, US

- Appears on all the network's shows, including Morning Edition, Here & Now and All Things Considered, writing for NPR.org and appearing on podcasts such as Consider This, Life Kit and Pop Culture Happy Hour.
- Contributes on a part time basis, delivering three to four stories per month.
- Acts as both TV critic and media analyst, helping develop stories on new and established programming, trends, social issues and news.

TV Critic/Media Analyst/Guest Host

September 2013 - September 2025 | National Public Radio, Washington, US

- Hired as the first full-time TV Critic at America's largest public radio news network.



CONTACT



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Lexington, Virginia 24450

SKILLS

- Journalism
- Teaching
- Ethics
- Radio
- Social Media
- Television
- Public Affairs
- Cultural Activities
- Broadcasting
- Editing
- Electronic Media
- Media Analysis
- Podcasting
- Interviewing
- Communication Skills

- Crafts stories and commentaries for all the network's shows, including Morning Edition, Here & Now and All Things Considered.
- Write text stories for the website, NPR.org.
- Host and co-host the NPR podcasts Life Kit and Code Switch; appear on editions of NPR podcasts It's Been a Minute and Pop Culture Happy Hour.
- Guest host NPR newsmagazines such as Weekend All Things Considered and Weekend Edition.
- Serve on Monthly Content Review Committee, convened to regularly assess state of NPR's journalism.
- Serves as in-house mentor to several staffers through NPR's official mentorship program.

Guest Host/Interviewer

July 2023 - Present | KCRW's The Business, Los Angeles, US

- Company Overview: Hollywood industry-focused radio show/podcast
- Interviewed subjects for the Hollywood industry-focused radio show/podcast The Business, including Gary Oldman, Leslie Jones, Neal Brennan, Roy Wood Jr. and Pam Grier.
- Hollywood industry-focused radio show/podcast

Guest Instructor

March 2004 - Present | Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Saint Petersburg, FL

- Began as an instructor helping teach Poynter's media ethics fellows one year after serving as a fellow.
- Authored a chapter in Poynter's 2014 update of its media ethics book, The New Ethics of Journalism.
- Co-founded and served as an instructor its youth training program The Write Field and its training program for writers of color, Diverse Voices.
- Served as a professional coach for its Leadership Academy for Diversity in Media.
- Wrote media analysis columns for its website, Poynter.org.

Guest Host/Panelist, Florida This Week

December 2010 - July 2025 | WEDU-Ch. 3, Tampa, FL

- Company Overview: Tampa's PBS member station
- Served as a guest host and panelist for the oldest public affairs TV show in Florida, leading discussions among prominent Democrats, Republicans, academics, journalists and other public figures on the news impacting Florida.

Adjunct Instructor

November 2017 - June 2025 | Duke University, Durham, NC

- Company Overview: a selective private research school over 180 years old
- Teach classes on race, media and journalism at Duke University.
- Class is offered through the Sanford School of Public Policy, based on material from my book, Race-Baiter: How the Media

Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation, which is also used as the class textbook.

Adjunct instructor

September 2023 - September 2024 | Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

- Company Overview: the state's largest college
- Taught a three-day boot camp class about how to report on pop culture and entertainment for The Media School at Indiana University.
- The course shows students how to develop an idea for a story rooted in entertainment or pop culture, including interviewing techniques, writing, ethics and research.

Guest Host/panelist, Reliable Sources

September 2009 - August 2022 | CNN, Washington DC, US

- Filled in as guest host and served as panelist on CNN's media analysis show.
- As guest host, led a team of four producers in assembling the lineup for the hourlong Sunday show, including developing segment ideas, booking guests, organizing interviews, reporting in the field and writing copy.
- Interviewed leading figures from media and journalism, including Dan Rather, Don Lemon, Jesse Jackson, Charles Blow and Ray Suarez.
- Served as guest anchor between tenures of Howard Kurtz and Brian Stelter; eventually appeared on Kurtz's last show, Stelter's first show and Stelter's last show.

Media analyst/contributor

October 2017 - October 2021 | MSNBC and NBC News, New York City, US

- Provided reporting and analysis on media issues for the MSNBC cable news channel and NBC News platforms.
- Appeared as an expert on media, pop culture and race on shows such as the NBC Nightly News, AM Joy, The Last Word and MTP Daily.

Columnist

November 2009 - September 2013 | National Sports Journalism Center, Indianapolis, US

- Company Overview: maintained by Indiana University's National Sports Journalism Center
- Wrote weekly columns on sports media for the official website.
- Maintained by Indiana University's National Sports Journalism Center

TV and Media Critic/Editorial Writer/Pop Music Critic

November 1995 - September 2013 | Tampa Bay Times/St. Petersburg Times, St. Petersburg, US

- Company Overview: Florida's largest daily newspaper
- Began as pop music critic at Florida's largest daily newspaper, which was then known as The St. Petersburg Times.

- Became the TV critic in 1997, writing reviews, features and news stories on local and national television issues.
- Joined the newspaper's editorial board in 2004 and 2005 to write bylined and unsigned columns on politics, social issues, pop culture and more.
- Returned to covering media and TV issues after the 2004 election, focusing on the rise of social media, fading print industry and exploding television platforms.
- Florida's largest daily newspaper

Adjunct Instructor

March 2001 - May 2005 | Eckerd College, Saint Petersburg, FL

- Company Overview: Saint Petersburg, FL
- Taught class developed with an American Studies professor at the school centered on how TV both mirrored and inspired major moments in the country's development.
- Key responsibilities included designing the curriculum from scratch, delivering weekly lecture, grading assignments and bringing in guest speakers.
- Saint Petersburg, FL

Adjunct Instructor

January 2004 - May 2004 | University of Tampa, Tampa, FL

- Company Overview: Tampa, FL
- Taught introductory level course for students planning to major in journalism and communications.
- About 50% of class material was standardized information for the required class and 50% was material I generated to make the course unique.
- Key responsibilities included developing curriculum to align with all other intro classes.
- Tampa, FL

Music Critic

March 1993 - November 1995 | Asbury Park Press, Neptune City, NJ

- Company Overview: New Jersey's second-largest newspaper
- Wrote reviews, news stories and features centered on music and pop culture for New Jersey's second-largest newspaper.
- Obtained the newspaper's first exclusive interview with hometown hero Bruce Springsteen in 25 years.
- Also covered locally-based superstars like Jon Bon Jovi, The Smithereens and Skid Row.
- New Jersey's second-largest newspaper

Reporter

May 1990 - March 1993 | Pittsburgh Press/Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, Pittsburgh, PA

- Covered news, feature stories, trends in Pittsburgh's northern suburbs for a weekly publication maintained by the newspapers.
- Started with the Pittsburgh Press, an afternoon publication and the state's second largest paper, after a successful summer

internship in 1989.

- Was hired by the Post-Gazette after a Teamsters strike forced sale of the Press in 1992.

EDUCATION

B. A. in journalism, political science

May 1990

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Have presented talks on journalism, ethics, race, media, pop culture and related subjects at Harvard University, Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg School for Communication, George Washington University, University of Southern California, Santa Clara University, University of Florida, Galludet University, many others.

FREELANCE WRITER

Have written stories for a long list of publications as a freelance contributor, including The New York Times, Washington Post, POLITICO, Columbia Journalism Review, U.S. News and World Report, The Los Angeles Review of Books, CNN.com, Rolling Stone Online, EMMY magazine, Newsmax magazine, Forbes, more.

CONTEST AWARDS JUDGING

Serving or have served on judging panels for The Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Awards, The George Foster Peabody Awards, the Independent Spirit Awards, Critics Choice Association awards, the TV Critics Association Awards and the International Documentary Association awards.

MUSICIAN

Played drums, electronic percussion and sang with Motown Records artists The Voyage Band from 1984 to 1990; continues to perform as drummer bassist and vocalist with area artists.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame, April 2024
- Irene Miller Vigilance in Journalism Award: American Civil Liberties Union of Florida, April 2021
- Distinguished Alumni Service Award: Indiana University, April 2020
- Excellence in Reporting on Social Issues Award: American Sociological Association, August 2019
- Distinguished Alumni Award: The Media School of Indiana University, November 2016

- Legacy Award: National Association of Black Journalists A&E Task Force, June 2013
- Robert S. Abbott Memorial Award for Meritorious Service in Mass Communications: Savannah State University, March 2013

PUBLICATIONS

- "Race Baiter: How the Media Wields Dangerous Words to Divide a Nation," by Eric Deggans, October 2012, Palgrave MacMillan/St. Martin's Press.
- "Reading Media: The New Horizons of Textual Analysis," edited by Jonathan Gray and Daphne Gershon, mid-2025, NYU Press.
- "The New Ethics of Journalism: Principles for the 21st Century," By Eric Deggans, Kelly McBride, et. al., October 2014, SAGE/CQ Press.
- "The Wire: The Complete Visual History," edited by D. Watkins, December 2022, Insight Editions
- "The Plugged-In Parent Almanac: The Guide to Popular Culture for Parents of Tweens and Teens," edited by Dan Solomon, February 2022, Wise Action.
- "Why I'm a Journalist: Personal Stories From Those Who Cover the News," edited by Aaron Chimbela, July 2018, Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group.

ADDITIONAL POSITIONS AND SKILLS

Member, National Advisory Board, Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Saint Petersburg, FL

JUNE 2023 — PRESENT

One of 18 members of a board of thought leaders which helps advise administrators at the Poynter Institute. The advisory board spends time with Poynter leadership and staff, offering recommendations on programs and policies to guide the Institute in the coming year to two years.

Chair, Board of Jurors, George Foster Peabody Awards, Athens, GA

JUNE 2013 — MAY 2019

Served on the board of judges who select the Peabody Awards for Excellence in Electronic Media for six years. The final year, Eric became the board's first African American chair, overseeing the selection process.

Chair, Media Monitoring Committee, National Association of Black Journalists, College Park, MD

JANUARY 2007 — PRESENT

Heads a group of NABJ members who advise the organization's board of directors on issues involving media outlets, from keeping track of complaints against local news platforms for their coverage of marginalized people to recommending board action when warranted.

Ethics Fellow, The Poynter Institute for Media Studies, Saint Petersburg, FL

MARCH 2003

Joined more than a dozen other mid-career journalists in a weeklong seminar aimed at sharpening ethical journalism skills, learning to how bring those lessons to our newsrooms and workplaces.

Member, Board of Directors, Television Critics Association

JULY 1999 — JULY 2001

Managed membership issues and helped run an organization of more

than 200 TV critics from across the world, including work to put on its Summer and Winter Press Tours, featuring press conferences by entertainment's top television platforms.

SELECTED LIST OF SPEECHES, PANELS AND APPEARANCES

Panel Moderator: NatGeo's Hurricane Katrina: Race Against Time at the National Association of Black Journalists conference, Cleveland, OH

AUGUST 2025

Led discussion between executive producer of National Geographic's five-part docu-series on the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and NABJ membership on lessons about race, class, and the power of misinformation revealed by the program.

Panel Moderator: Star Trek: Strange New Worlds at the Tribeca Film Festival, New York

JUNE 2025

Led discussion with cast and producers of Star Trek series on the upcoming third season and the future of the franchise.

Guest instructor/keynoter: Breaking Into Books seminar, Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, FL

JUNE 2025

Served as instructor and keynote speaker, alongside noted writing coach/professor Samuel Freedman, in seminar convened by Poynter to coach writers on how to get their book ideas published.

Panel on the legacy of Terri Schiavo on the 20th anniversary of her death, New York University/Langone Health

APRIL 2025

Served as panelist speaking on media coverage of controversy surrounding Terri Schiavo, a mother in Florida in a vegetative state whose husband was fighting against her parents in court to end her life. Panel was moderated by Arthur Caplan, ethicist and professor at NYU School of Medicine.

Panelist, Panel Moderator: Double Exposure Investigative Film Festival, Washington DC

NOVEMBER 2024

Served as panelist on discussion about media coverage of presidential election and moderated panel on public's lack of trust in journalists.

Keynote speech: WUSF-FM Listen Up Luncheon, Sarasota, FL

NOVEMBER 2024

Served as keynote speaker for primary fundraiser by Tampa NPR member station WUSF-FM.

Lecture: From Minstrelsy to Moesha, Evolution of the Black Image in Media

- Black Film Center Archive, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

SEPTEMBER 2024

Delivered 90-minute lecture on how depictions of Black people evolved over the past 100 years in TV, film, radio and assorted media.

Moderator: Celebrating James Baldwin's Centennial - National Book Festival, Washington DC

AUGUST 2024

Moderated panel on the contemporary impact of James Baldwin's work with novelists Ayana Mathis and Viet Thanh Nguyen.

Panelist: Black Men and the Presidential Election - National Association of Black Journalists national convention, Chicago, IL

JULY 2024

Appeared on panel with other journalists to discuss changing voting

patterns among Black men in the upcoming presidential election and media coverage of the phenomenon.

Keynote speaker: The Regan Lecture at Santa Clara University, Santa Clara, CA

MAY 2024

Spoke on the ethics of media, racism in news coverage and how to recognize prejudice in media messaging during the appearance, sponsored by the Makkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University.

Keynote speaker: Furman University Martin Luther King Jr. Community Breakfast, Greenville, SC

JANUARY 2024

Delivered keynote speech at Furman University's annual MLK Day celebration."

Panelist: The Future of Fox News - Texas Tribune Festival, Austin, TX

SEPTEMBER 2023

Joined CNN media analyst Brian Stelter and former New York Times Public Editor Margaret Sullivan to speak about the conservative cable TV newschannel.

Keynote speaker: Meet NPR TV Critic Eric Deggans - WFIU-FM, Bloomington, IN

SEPTEMBER 2023

Headlined a public Q&A with local anchor from WFIU-FM as part of a fundraiser for the NPR member station in Bloomington, IN.

Panelist: Charles Ogletree Public Forum, Truth Be Told - Democracy in Crisis, Oak Bluffs, MA

AUGUST 2023

Appeared on panel at Union Chapel in Martha's Vineyard with CNN anchor Abby Phillips, Columbia University Journalism School Dean Jelani Cobb, CBS anchor Michele Miller to discuss state of news media.

Featured panelist: A Conversation of the Future of TV, Media and Journalism - South By Southwest Festival, Austin, TX

MARCH 2023

Interviewed by PolitiFact founder and Duke University professor Bill Adair about trends in media and the future of journalism.

Panelist: Legacies of Race and Hollywood - Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA

FEBRUARY 2023

Delivered lecture with author and Stony Brook University professor Shirley Lim about the history of racism in Hollywood, sponsored by Bucknell University's Griot Institute for the Study of Black Lives and Cultures.

Keynote speaker: It Takes Us Social Justice Series - Pasco-Hernando State College, Wesley Chapel, FL

NOVEMBER 2022

Delivered keynote on the evolution of racial images in media for PHSC's #ItTakesUs social justice series.

Keynote speaker: KPBS Hall of Fame Dinner, San Diego, CA

OCTOBER 2022

Delivered keynote address for major fundraiser held by KPBS Public Media in San Diego.

Keynote speaker: Nevada System of Higher Education Southern Nevada Diversity Summit, Las Vegas, NV

OCTOBER 2022

Delivered keynote address on how racism and prejudice affects health outcomes as part of the NSHE summit hosted by the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

**Keynote speaker: David and Janet Dix Lecture in Media Ethics -
Kent State University, Kent, OH**

FEBRUARY 2020

Was subject of Q&A moderated by Amy Reynolds, dean of the College of Communication and Information at Kent State University"

**Keynote speaker: Fishback Program for Visiting Writers -
Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA**

FEBRUARY 2018

Spoke at the Stackhouse Theater as part of the program, hosted by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communications.

**Keynote speaker: 14th Annual Awards and Scholarship Luncheon -
Limestone College, Gaffney, SC**

JANUARY 2017

Spoke at event honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

**Participant: College Luminaries Program - Indiana University,
Bloomington, IN**

NOVEMBER 2015

Joined four other Indiana University alumni honored as "luminaries," who participated in two days of public panels, lectures and visits with students, organized by the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Participant: Race and the Race for the Presidency - George
Washington University, Washington DC**

APRIL 2013

Featured in a series of panel discussions on how political campaigns and media dealt with race in the 2012 presidential election featuring Barack Obama vs. Mitt Romney. Organized by School of Media and Public Affairs at The George Washington University.

Speaker: TEDx Bloomington, Bloomington, IN

MARCH 2013

Delivered speech on how to talk about race across racial lines without conflict, based on material from my book, Race-Baiter.

**Participant: Let's Do It Better! Workshops on Journalism, Race and
Ethnicity - Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism,
New York, NY**

MAY 2008

Appeared on a panel and had several columns on race, media and life originally in the St. Petersburg Times re-published by the workshop, sponsored by the Ford Foundation and hosted by the school."