Journalism under Pressure is a symposium that champions the vital work of contemporary US journalists and examines the various pressures journalism faces at this particular historical moment. What does journalism look like in a culture that has come to misunderstand or eschew objectivity? What are the implications of working as a journalist during a presidential administration that routinely refers to the press as an “enemy of the people?” In what ways have social media corporations influenced and even controlled the news cycle? How have the rhythms of the attention economy and the expectation to produce endless “sharable content” informed the work of journalists? How can institutions build better, more inclusive newsrooms? What are the possible responses to the economic and job security pressures faced by journalists and publications alike? To take up these urgent questions, journalists working across a range of subjects, genres, and publications join in a series of panel discussions organized by Gallatin faculty members Sara Murphy and Amanda Petrusich.
March 10, 2020

Alumni in Journalism 2:00 to 3:30 pm
Featuring Hazel Cills (BA ’16), Ryan Leas (BA ’13), Maria Sherman (BA ’13), and Brittany Spanos (BA ’14), moderated by current students Remie Arena (BA ’20) and Saransh Desai-Chowdhry (BA ’20)

Music and Culture Writing 4:00 to 5:15 pm
Featuring Michael Agger, Joe Coscarelli, Sam Sodomsky, and Brittany Spanos, moderated by Ben Ratliff

Reporting Identity 5:30 to 6:45 pm
Featuring Lauretta Charlton, Hazel Cills, Pier Dominguez, and Vanessa Grigoriadis, moderated by Kate Bolick

Political Journalism 7:00 to 8:15 pm
Featuring Nina Berman, David Dent, Johnny Dwyer, and Sarah Leonard, moderated by Lauren Walsh
Brittany Spanos (BA ‘14) is a Rolling Stone senior writer who reports on pop music and teen culture. Since joining the magazine in 2015, she has written cover stories on Cardi B and Janelle Monáe and has covered everything from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to TikTok. She has freelanced for Rookie, Vulture, SPIN and more. In 2016, Spanos worked as a consultant for the MTV VMAs. Her favorite genre of music is boy band. (Photograph by Philippe Rohdewald.)

Saransh Desai-Chowdhry (BA ‘20) (Moderator) is a Gallatin senior concentrating in “Cultural Entrepreneurship and Social Marketing” with a minor in French Studies. A critical writer, creative marketer and classically-trained musician, he currently works at The Orchard of Sony Music as a college and lifestyle marketing representative. On campus, Saransh is an Admissions Ambassador and a member of the Americas Scholars society at Gallatin.
MUSIC AND CULTURE WRITING
4:00 to 5:15 PM

Michael Agger
is a culture editor for The New Yorker’s Web site. Previously, he was an editor and writer at Slate. He has spent a lot of time on the Internet.

Joe Coscarelli
is a culture reporter for The New York Times with a focus on pop music. Since joining the Times in late 2015, he has aimed to pull back the curtain on how hit songs and emerging artists are discovered, made and marketed, with a focus on craft and on colorful personalities from Lil Yachty and Miley Cyrus to Kendrick Lamar and Billie Eilish. A Florida native and a graduate of NYU, he previously worked at New York and The Village Voice. He is currently working on a narrative nonfiction book about rap in Atlanta for Simon & Schuster. (Photograph courtesy of The New York Times.)

Sam Sodomsky
is a writer living in Brooklyn, New York. After growing up in Pennsylvania, he attended Syracuse University and received an MFA in nonfiction writing at Columbia University. He is currently a staff writer at Pitchfork and his work has also appeared in publications, including Rolling Stone, The Nation, and Uncut. Additionally, he records and releases music under the name BCI and co-hosts Welcome to Chicago, a podcast dedicated to the music of the 70’s rock band. (Photograph by Sam Williams.)

Brittany Spanos (BA ‘14)
is a Rolling Stone senior writer who reports on pop music and teen culture. Since joining the magazine in 2015, she has written cover stories on Cardi B and Janelle Monáe and has covered everything from the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame to TikTok. She has freelanced for Rookie, Vulture, SPIN and more. In 2016, Spanos worked as a consultant for the MTV VMAs. Her favorite genre of music is boy band. (Photograph by Philippe Rohdewald.)

Ben Ratliff (Moderator)
has written about pop, jazz, traditional and experimental music for publications including Grant, Slate, Artforum, Wire, Rolling Stone, The Guardian, and The New York Times, where he worked as a music critic for twenty years. He is the author of four books, including Every Song Ever (Penguin, 2016) and Coltrane: The Story of a Sound (Picador, 2007) and is a Visiting Assistant Professor at NYU Gallatin. (Photograph by Kate Fox Reynolds.)
REPORTING IDENTITY
5:30 to 6:45 pm

Lauretta Charlton is an editor on the National Desk of The New York Times and is the editor of the newsletter Race/Related. She was previously a news editor at The New Yorker and a music columnist at New York magazine. A California native, she attended school in the San Francisco Bay Area and joined The New York Times in 2018. (Photograph by Liz Barclay.)

Hazel Cills (BA ’16) is the pop culture reporter at Jezebel. Previously, she was a music writer for MTV News and a founding writer of the teen website Rookie. Her writing has appeared in the Los Angeles Times, Pitchfork, ELLE, NPR, The New York Times Magazine, and more.

Pier Dominguez (BA ’05) is a Culture Writer for BuzzFeed News. They received a PhD in American Studies from Brown University.

Vanessa Grigoriadis is the author of Blurred Lines: Rethinking Sex, Power, and Consent on Campus (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2017), a book that answers many of the questions about sexual consent currently in national debate. She is a contributing writer at The New York Times magazine and Vanity Fair, specializing in pop culture, youth movements, and crime reporting. For “Karl Lagerfeld, Boy Prince of Fashion,” she won a 2007 National Magazine Award in profile writing. (Photograph by Max Farago.)

Kate Bolick (Moderator) is the author of Spinster: Making a Life of One’s Own (Broadway Books, 2015), combines memoir, biography, history, and cultural criticism to explore the lives of unmarried women in America. Her work has appeared in The Atlantic, Bookforum, The New York Times, and Vogue, among other publications. She teaches at NYU Gallatin, the NYU Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute, and Columbia’s School of the Arts. (Photograph by Willy Soma.)
POLITICAL JOURNALISM
7:00 to 8:15 pm

Nina Berman
is a documentary photographer, filmmaker, author, and educator. Her wide-ranging work looks at American politics, militarism, post violence trauma, and resistance. Her photographs and videos have been exhibited at more than 100 venues from the security walls at the Za’atari refugee camp to the Whitney Museum of Art Biennial. Books include Purple Hearts – Back from Iraq (2004), Homeland (2008), and An Autobiography of Miss Wish (2017), which was shortlisted for the Aperture and Arles Book Prizes. She is a professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where she directs the photography program.

David Dent
is the author of In Search of Black America: Discovering the African-American Dream (Free Press, 2001) and is an Associate Professor of Journalism and Social and Cultural Analysis at New York University. He contributes regularly to Vice.com on politics and has written for many publications, including The New York Times Magazine, PBS Newshour.com, Psychology Today, Fortune Small Business, GQ, Playboy, Essence, Vice, and The Washington Post. He and his wife, Valerie, are founders of Write for the Future, an organization committed to using the tools of journalism to help high school students improve their writing skills.

Johnny Dwyer
is a reporter and the author of The Districts (Alfred A. Knopf, 2019) and American Warlord (Alfred A. Knopf, 2015). He was a staff writer at LIFE Magazine where he reported domestic and international stories including the war in Iraq and Hurricane Katrina. He has also reported for The New York Times, The Intercept, The Daily Beast, Foreign Policy, ProPublica, Esquire, Rolling Stone, TIME, and others. He is currently working on his third book. (Photograph by Michael Lionstar.)

Sarah Leonard
is an editor and journalist in New York. She is a contributing editor to The Nation, where she was previously features editor, and editor-at-large at Dissent. She was the founding executive editor of The Appeal, a publication focused on criminal justice. She has written for a wide range of outlets, including The New York Times, the Guardian, The Nation, Dissent, and Bookforum. She is the co-editor of two collections, Occupy!: Scenes from Occupied America, and The Future We Want: Radical Ideas for the New Century. (Photograph by Andrew T. Warman.)

Lauren Walsh
(Moderator)
teaches at NYU, where she is the director of the Gallatin Photojournalism Lab. She is also the director of Lost Rolls America, a national public archive of photography and memory. Walsh's newest book, Conversations on Conflict Photography (Bloomsbury, 2019), examines the value of documenting war and humanitarian crisis in the contemporary moment. She is also the editor of two other photo books as well as a book of critical essays on visual culture. Walsh is currently co-directing Biography of a Photo, a documentary film about two iconic images of conflict.