



ARIONNE NETTLES
Journalism Lecturer

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EDUCATION

College of Education, DePaul University | Chicago, IL
PhD in Educational Leadership Program — Sept. 2022—Present
Higher Education Concentration
Expected graduation: June 2026

Medill School, Northwestern University | Evanston, IL
Master of Science in Journalism — June 2016
Interactive Magazine Specialization

School of Business & Industry, Florida A & M University | Tallahassee, FL
Bachelor of Science & Master of Business Administration — April 2008
Combined Program

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

School of Journalism and Graphic Communications — Florida A&M University
Garth C. Reeves Eminent Scholar Chair and Instructor for Digital Journalism — August 2024–present

- Teaches courses focusing on news reporting and writing, interactive storytelling and multimedia
- Implementing co-curricular digital trainings open to all SJGC students in the areas such as artificial intelligence, podcasting, social media video creation, and other growing topics
- Represent SJGC in engaging potential students by serving on the scholarship and recruiting committees

Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications — Northwestern University

Lecturer and Director of Audio Journalism Programming — June 2022–August 2024

Early Positions: Lecturer — September 2019–June 2022, *Adjunct Lecturer* — 2018-2019

- Leading rejuvenated audio curriculum, including identifying learning objectives, managing cross-college collaborations, and guiding new adjunct instructors
- Teaches both undergraduate and graduate curriculum in the areas of news reporting and writing, interactive storytelling and using multimedia
- Served as lead instructor for a first-year multimedia class

Publisher of Medill Reports — September 2019–August 2021

- Guided graduate student reporters through publishing on the site, Medill Reports
- Advised four fellows, training them as student editors to serve as conduits and resources for student reporters
- Designed and managed websites for additional projects such as the Medill Investigative Lab
- Spearheaded website redesigns and process improvements

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

City Bureau | Chicago, IL
Deputy Editor — June 2021–November 2021

WBEZ | Chicago, IL
Digital Producer — August 2017–present

The Associated Press | Chicago, IL
Multiformat Editor, Temporary Newsperson — February 2017–July 2017

Chicago Defender | Chicago, IL
Digital Managing Editor — July 2016–November 2016
Early Position: Reporter — June 2015–July 2016

Digital Consultant | Chicago, IL — Nov. 2010–March 2017

Coyote Logistics | Chicago, IL
Social Marketing Lead — Dec. 2011–Aug. 2014
Early Positions: Intermodal Operations Representative, Corporate Trainer — Aug. 2010–Dec. 2011

International Paper | Memphis, TN
Transportation Planner — Jan. 2007–July 2010

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Books and Book Chapters

We Are the Culture: Black Chicago's Influence on Everything
 Lawrence Hill Books/Chicago Review Press, April 2024

Instructing Intersectionality: Critical and Practical Strategies for the Mass Communication Classroom
 "Authentic Voice in Audio Storytelling for Intersectional Teaching," Rowman & Littlefield, Fall 2024

Journalism & Media Literacy For Dummies
 Wiley as part of the "For Dummies" series, January 2025

Hail to the Queen Bey: A Collection of Essays Celebrating Beyonce
 Contributing essay, FMP Press, Summer 2025

The Medill Method to Reporting and Writing
 "What is News" and "Finding Sources," Northwestern University Libraries

Creative/Professional Activities

Bragging Rights Host

- Hosts and produces an audio storytelling project to celebrate the rich accomplishments of historically Black colleges and universities

Is That True? A Kids Podcast About Facts Host

- Developed a kids podcast with A Kids Company About that helps children build information literacy skills and learn how to fact-check information

WBEZ Education Advice Contributor

- Writes a parenting advice column for the WBEZ Education newsletter

WBEZ *Curious City* Reporter

- Reports stories on Chicago culture and history, including the legacy of Ida B. Wells and how the Great Migration affected the city's blues industry

Chicago Reader Reporter

- Writes features on visual arts, niche cultures, and more
- Represents the *Reader* as a reporter on the Prairie State Museums Project, an application to the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting's Coronavirus News Collaboration Challenge

New York Times Opinion and The Trace's Black Mother's Project (2021)

- Reported on community and state gun violence and interviewed mothers across the U.S. on their thoughts about gun violence solutions

Medium's Momentum — Race Writer (2021)

- Writes columns on race-related issues occurring in media, politics, education, and the workplace

Medium's ZORA — Contributing Writer (2020-2021)

- Writes stories essential for women of color, including everything from pregnancy and motherhood to policing

WTTW "Firsthand: Poverty" Digital Editor (2020)

- Finding, guiding, and editing the work of three journalists on stories about poverty in Chicago
- Reporting and writing the main story for the series

WTTW and The Trace's "Firsthand: Gun Violence" Reporter (2019)

- Reported and wrote two out of five stories in the series that follows the stories of people whose lives have been touched by gun violence
- The series won a 2019 Peter Lisagor Award for Best Multimedia Feature Presentation

Selected Journalism Stories

"Peace, love and Soul Train" — [WBEZ's *Curious City*](#), August 2023 (radio, podcast, and online)

"In her migration memoir, a lyrical new writer argues for a more compassionate U.S." — [WBEZ](#), June 2023

"A new book reveals Martin Luther King Jr.'s radical side" — [WBEZ](#), May 2023 (online)

"Saving Black homes lost to tax inequity: A decades-old practice of selling tax debt is still causing families to lose their homes" — [The Emancipator](#), January 2023 (online)

"Florence Price was one of the greatest composers of the 20th Century. Until recently, she was overlooked." — [WBEZ's *Curious City*](#), July 2022 (radio, podcast, and online)

"'We can imagine our way into something else': Envisioning Justice RE:ACTION expands community-driven efforts to imagine a future without mass incarceration" — *Chicago Reader*, April 2022 (online and print)

"Black Mothers are the Real Experts on the Toll of Gun Violence" — *New York Times Opinion* and *The Trace*, May 2021 (online)

"Independent Black cinema got its start on Chicago's South Side" — *WBEZ's Curious City*, October 2021 (radio, podcast, and online)

"Chicago's Ambitious Anti-Poverty Plan" — *WTTW*, 2021

"Where Chicago Shootings Go Unchecked, Owning a Gun Can Feel Like a Necessity" and "Parents of Chicago Teens Convicted of Shootings Find a Common Cause in Prison Reform" in *The Trace* and *WTTW*, November 2019 (online)

Selected Panels and Talks

"Learning, Teaching, and Celebrating Black History in Chicago" at Printers Row Literary Fest — September 2024

- Featured author in conversation with Erica Griffin-Fabicon of the Chicago History Museum, and Elizabeth Todd-Breland, history professor at UIC, moderated by journalism professor Steven Thrasher

Commemorating the Chicago Race Riot of 1919 — July 2024

- Facilitated a tour stop discussion about the *Chicago Defender* newspaper, its history, and legacy

Ida B. Wells Festival: Celebrating Bronzeville — June 2024

- Read a selection from my book *We Are the Culture* and moderated a panel titled "Filtering Fact from Fiction in a Media Soundbite"

"Writing the Dark Testament: Black History" at the American Writers Festival — May 2024

- Interviewed scholars Charisse Burden-Stelly, author of *Black Scare / Red Scare: Theorizing Capitalist Racism in the United States*, and Andrew W. Kahrl, author of *The Black Tax: 150 Years of Theft, Exploitation, and Dispossession in America*

Teach for Chicago Journalism — June 2021, June 2022, June 2023

- Taught courses to high school journalism teachers on social media, radio scripting, and podcasting

Medill Admit Day — April 2021, April 2022, April 2023

- Taught a mini-class on podcasting to admitted students in the master of science in journalism degree program and their families

National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences "Majoring in Media" Panel — December 2022

- Joined a panel of educators in radio- and film-related industries to talk to high school students about majoring in media

So You Want to Start a Podcast? Workshop — November 2022

- Created and presented a Medill workshop on podcast storytelling for the Northwestern University community

“How On-Demand Listening Is Changing News Radio” at the Mobile Me&You Conference — October 2022

- Presented a look at how the option of on-demand listening has changed how news consumers experience news radio and opened opportunities to expand traditional radio stories to newer, younger and more diverse listeners

“Crafting the Audio Essay” at the CBI (College Broadcasters Inc) Conference — October 2022

- Presented a session on how to report, structure, and script personal essays as sound-rich audio narratives for podcasts and radio news

In Conversation with Carell Augustus at the American Writers Museum — October 2022

- Interviewed Augustus, a photographer and the author of *Black Hollywood: Reimagining Iconic Movie Moments*

The groundwork: Reflecting the reality of gun violence as a public health problem — October 2022

- Moderated a panel about gun violence as a public health problem for the Association of Health Care Journalists

Until Justice Be Done and At the Threshold of Liberty at Printers Row Literary Fest — September 2021

- Moderated a conversation with Cornell University associate professor Tamika Y. Nunley, author of *At the Threshold of Liberty*, and Northwestern University Professor Kate Masur, author of *Until Justice Be Done*, about the fight for civil rights prior to the Civil War

“Who Tells Your Story? Celebrating Chicago Community Media” Panel — September 2021

- Served as a panelist with other representatives from local community media outlets to discuss the importance of journalism, media, and culture

American Writers Festival — May 2021

- Interviewed Broadway director and author Schele Williams at the American Writers Festival about her new book, *Your Legacy*
- Scheduled to interview Tochi Onyebuchi, author of *Goliath* (canceled due to author’s travel issue)

Uber and Heineken March Madness ERG Event — March 2021

- Moderated a panel of athletes and former athletes for Heineken and Uber’s Black resource groups

Northwestern University’s Panel on Practical Tips for Now and Looking Ahead — February 2021

- Joined a panel of experienced Northwestern instructors to share insights on what lessons from online learning to take back to in-person classrooms

National Association of Black Journalists Media Institute on Education and Health — 2021

- Served as a panelist for the NABJ Media Institute’s “Influencers, Technology, and Your Online Presence” workshop

Northwestern’s Contemporary Thought Speaker Series 2020 Election Panel

- Moderated a Q&A with Brittany Packnett Cunningham (MSNBC commentator, co-host of *Pod Save the People* and co-founder of Campaign Zero)

Gene Siskel Film Center — 2020 and 2021

- Moderated a panel for the 2020 Black Harvest Film Festival and a panel for the 2021 “Our Right to Gaze: Black Film Identities” short film program

Medill High School Journalism Day 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022

- Taught workshops on creating social media videos—and in 2022, on podcasting—to area high school students and their advisers visiting Medill for a day of workshops

Medill Admit Day — April 2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19)

- Planned to teach a mini-class to admitted students in the master of science in journalism degree program titled “Centering the Audience for Forward-Thinking Digital Storytelling”

Northwestern Undergraduate Research Journal National Conference — April 2020 (Canceled due to COVID-19)

- Invited to speak at the Society for Undergraduate Humanities Journals' Annual Conference for its collegiate members

Selected Interviews

“Englewood author debuts book on Black Chicago’s influence on music, fashion, sports in pop culture” — [ABC 7 Chicago](#), February 2024

“Book Examines Influence Of Black Chicagoans” — [WGN's Spotlight Chicago](#), February 2024

“Gassing Up Black Chicago: Arionne Nettles talks about her new book *We Are The Culture*” — [South Side Weekly](#), February 2024

“South Side native Arionne Nettles' debut book is a love letter to Black Chicago” — [The TRiiBE](#), February 2024

“Vanished: Chicago's Missing Black Women and Girls” — [CAN TV Chicago Newsroom 2.0](#), June 2023

“As Electric Vehicles Drop AM Radio, Broadcasters and Advocates Are Pushing Back” — [WTTW Chicago Tonight](#), June 2023

“Creating More Diverse Newsrooms in Light of Study Showing Disparities in Staffing, Coverage” — [WTTW Black Voices](#), April 2023

“Should Journalists Have Partied With Beyoncé in Dubai? We Have Answers from the Professionals” — [The Root](#), January 2023

“Celebrating the Culture, Conversation and Comedy of Black Twitter As Social Media Company Faces Uncertainty” — [WTTW Black Voices](#), November 2022

“The Hard Hair Choice For Black Women” — [WBEZ Reset](#), November 2022

“Yes, Dwarves, Mermaids And Hobbits Can Be Black” — [WBEZ Reset](#), October 2022

“Pop Culture: Close out spooky season with ‘Wendell and Wild’” — [WBEZ Reset](#), October 2022

“‘This is My Home Base’: A Visit to Pullman and Roseland” — [City Cast Chicago](#), September 2022

“From ‘Land Barbara’ to Gritty: the best moments from ‘Abbott Elementary’ premiere” — [WBEZ Reset](#), September 2022

“We’re still talking about Beyoncé” — [Nerdette](#), August 2022

"'Nope,' Jordan Peele and his impact on the horror genre" — [WBEZ Reset](#), July 2022

"Harold's Fried Chicken Is a Piece of the Black Chicago Experience" — [Chicago Eater](#), June 2022

"'Looters,' 'Bandits,' and 'Gangbangers'" — [South Side Weekly](#), April 2021

"Nerdette Book Club: 'The Space Between Worlds'" — [Nerdette](#), January 2021

"Journalist Arionne Nettles Shares Her Favorite Things To Read, Watch And Do" — [WBEZ Reset](#), December 2020

"First 'Candyman' Trailer Terrifying A Whole New Generation Of Chicagoans" — [WBEZ Reset](#), February 2020

"Oscars Roundtable: Making The Case For Your Fave Non-Nominee" — [WBEZ Reset](#), February 2020

"A Decade In Review: From Pop Culture To Politics, The Biggest Moments of the 2010s" — [WBEZ Reset](#), January 2020

TEACHING

Courses Taught

FAMU

JOUR 4342C Newswriting & Reporting III

NU Graduate

JOUR 400-3 Foundations of Interactive

JOUR 409-0 Audio Reporting

JOUR 490-0 Intro to Podcasting

JOUR 490-0 Narrative Podcasting

JOUR 400-1 Journalism Methods

JOUR 421-4-24 Multimedia News Reporting

JOUR 421-4-22 Audio News Reporting

JOUR 471-0 Master's Project

NU Undergraduate

JOUR 201-2 Multimedia Storytelling – Lecture and Lead Instructor

JOUR 201-1 Reporting & Writing

JOUR 291-0 Intro to Podcasting

JOUR 301-0-24 Journalism in Practice: Arts & Culture Audio Reporting in Chicago

JOUR 390-0 Audio Storytelling

JOUR 390-0 Audio Feature Reporting

NU Collaboration Courses

YouTube's Creator Program for Independent Journalists

- Teaches classes on the art of online storytelling and a class on how to source images and videos to participants in Europe, Middle East & Africa; Asia-Pacific; and the Americas

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Featured in Northwestern University's "[Keep Teaching](#)" video series about teaching during the COVID-19 pandemic
- National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Award Winner for National Newspaper Feature Story — 2022
- National Association of Black Journalists Salute to Excellence Award Winner for Radio Documentary — 2020
- Pulitzer Center Grant — 2020 Recipient
- Investigative Reporters & Editors Educator of Color Fellowship — 2020 Recipient
- ASNE Emerging Leaders Institute 2019 Cohort
- Foundations of Online Teaching Summer 2020 Practicum
- Public Media Journalists Association Editor Training October 2020 Cohort

SERVICE

HBCU Radio Preservation Project (WYSO Archives and the Northeast Document Conservation Center) — 2024-Present

- Serves on the advisory board

The Library of Congress Radio Preservation Task Force — 2023-Present

- Serves on the African American and Civil Rights Caucus

Pulitzer Center Adviser for Student Grantee — 2021-Present

- Advises students who receive grant money for their reporting projects on planning, reporting, editing, and pitching their work

Best of Gannett 2021 Competition — 2021

- Served as a judge for the Graphics/Illustration category

Third Coast International Audio Festival/Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Competition — 2021

- Served as a judge for the Best Documentary category

National Association of Black Journalists Member

- Volunteers to assist Northwestern's collegiate NABJ chapter
- Active member and former board member of the Chicago chapter

Write Chicago

- Helps Chicago-area teenagers explore writing for self-expression and essay-writing
- Designs all workshops and create curriculum