Alex Colston

Journalism, Editing, and Psychoanalysis

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The Common Disorder (newsletter)

Editor, journalist, and social worker with about ten years across books, magazines, digital news, and investigative journalism. First editor of Drop Site News's daily newsletter; co-founder and deputy editor of *Parapraxis*; assistant editor at Basic Books. As an independent journalist covering the Palestine solidarity movement, I sailed with both Global Sumud Flotilla missions to Gaza and was detained by Israel both times. MA in Clinical Psychology, Duquesne University; MA with Distinction, Birkbeck, University of London.

EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE

Mar 2025 – Feb 2026

Story Editor, *Drop Site News* · New York (remote)

- First editor of the daily newsletter, *Drop Site Daily*, and of much of the outlet's international reporting.
- Commissioned and edited investigations on social movements, geopolitics, and corruption from staff and freelancers worldwide.
- Edited dispatches from Palestinian journalists in Gaza and Jeremy Scahill's reporting on Palestinian politics, the ceasefire negotiations, and political prisoners.
- Fact-checked, vetted, and reframed reports; managed reporters and a daily publishing schedule; supported reporters sent into protests and conflict zones; built the outlet's multimedia infrastructure with the social team.

Dec 2021 – Mar 2025

Deputy Editor and Co-Founder, *Parapraxis*

- Co-founded the print and web magazine of psychoanalysis and politics; profiled in *New York*, "Club Freud" (2023).
- Top-edited every piece across six print issues and online, including a standalone issue on Palestinian resistance; designed and started the magazine's sections with fellow editors.
- Commissioned, developed, and edited essays, criticism, and reviews; co-wrote editorials; ran the editorial calendar.
- Built the magazine's brand with its designer and web designer; ran email promotions (Mailchimp), paid ads, and a campaign for each issue; wrote the Issue 01 tagline, "Free your mind, your errors will follow."
- Partnered with independent distributor Asterism Books for retail; ran the web store and subscriptions as readership grew to thousands of subscribers.

Jan 2020 – present

Freelance Book Editor and Fact-Checker

- Developmental, line, and copy editing and fact-checking of academic and trade nonfiction for authors at Duke, MIT, Fordham, and UNC presses, Routledge, Teachers College Press, and Haymarket Books.

Aug 2017 – Aug 2020

Assistant Editor, *Basic Books and Seal Press* (Hachette) · New York

- Supported acquisitions in history, politics, science, and the social sciences for up to four editors, including the publisher.
- Wrote editorial letters; line- and structurally edited manuscripts; managed production schedules, rights and permissions; wrote flap and marketing copy.

Nov 2017 – Aug 2020

Researcher, Fact-Checker, and Copy Editor, *The Baffler*

- Fact-checked and copyedited long-form essays and reporting; proofread more than twenty print issues.

May 2017 – 2019

Researcher and Fact-Checker, *Condé Nast* (*GQ* and Pitchfork TV)

- Fact-checked reporting for *GQ*; researched and checked scripts for some forty Pitchfork TV music documentaries.

2015 – 2017

Editorial Internships

- *Lapham's Quarterly* (under the late Lewis Lapham), The New Press (also temporary editorial and development assistant; co-edited *Wolf Whistle Politics*), and *In These Times*.

REPORTING EXPERIENCE

Oct – Nov 2026

Independent Journalist, *Progressive International* · Italy

- Port-by-port series on Italian dockworkers and the October 30 European port strike, from Livorno, Gioia Tauro, and Genoa, each with a self-produced video report.

Apr – Jun 2026

Contributor, *Zeteo*

- Sailed with the Global Sumud Flotilla's spring mission; written and video reports from five ships; detained by Israel and reported on the conditions of detention.

2025

Field and Investigative Reporter, *Drop Site News*

- Reported from aboard the fall 2025 flotilla; detained by Israel with some twenty other members of the press.
- Co-reported an investigation into a Jersey City warehouse shipping military cargo to Israel; field and video reporting on arms shipments and Israeli prisons.

VIDEO AND AUDIO

2010 – present

Field Video Journalist and Audio Engineer

- Shoot, edit, sequence, and mix documentary dispatches for Drop Site News, Zeteo, BreakThrough News, and Progressive International, including these two from the 2025 flotilla.
- Earlier audio engineer and musician (2010–2017): recorded, mixed, and toured with four bands across eight records; production engineer for Version Fest 14, a benefit for Chicago's Lumpen Radio.

SOCIAL WORK, CLINICAL TRAINING, AND COMMUNITY

Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

Graduate Clinician, *Duquesne University Community Clinic* · Pittsburgh

- Three years of supervised clinical training in the PhD program: individual, couples, family, and group psychotherapy under licensed supervision, including crisis intervention, intakes, and treatment planning.
- Psychological assessment (WAIS, MMPI-2, Rorschach) with integrated reports; care coordination with psychiatrists and medical providers.

Dec 2021 – Mar 2025

Co-Founder and Co-Director, *The Psychosocial Foundation*

- Nonprofit that publishes *Parapraxis* and runs a remote clinic, seminars, workshops, and political education; programming raised over $100,000 a year and drew hundreds of participants, on a sliding scale.

Jan 2011 – Mar 2015

Settlement Worker and Resident, *Benton House* · Chicago

- Organizer, teacher, financial officer, administrator, board member, and facilities manager at a century-old South Side settlement house; ran the food pantry, after-school and literacy programs, and a lending library.
- Connected residents with services and referrals; coordinated outreach events and local advocacy campaigns with organizers and social workers; kept client records.
- Restored and maintained its two buildings (over 30,000 sq ft), doing carpentry, construction, and electrical work.

EDUCATION

Dec 2024 — **MA, Clinical Psychology,** *Duquesne University*
- Master's portion of the PhD program in Clinical Psychology. Advisor: Derek Hook.

Dec 2021 — **MA, Psychoanalytic Studies, with Distinction,** *Birkbeck, University of London*
- Thesis: "God Plans, We Laugh: Desire, Responsibility, and Freedom in Lacanian and Sartrean Psychoanalysis." Advisor: Stephen Frosh.

May 2013 — **BA, Liberal Arts, with Distinction,** *Shimer College* (*Great Books*) · Chicago

PUBLICATIONS

SCHOLARSHIP

- "Revolutionary Shame: A Clinical Praxis." In *Fanon and Lacan: Decolonial Psychoanalysis*. Routledge, forthcoming 2027.
- "Trans Psychoanalysis and the High Court." *Psychoanalytic Inquiry* (2025). Winner, Deanna Holtzman Interdisciplinary Essay Contest.
- "For Better or Worst: The Social Bond of Hysterics on Strike." *differences* (2023).
- "Left Freudians: The Psychoanalytic Politics of Disobedience." *History of the Present* 12, no. 1 (2022).

SELECTED JOURNALISM AND ESSAYS

- Italian dockworkers and the October 30 strike, three-part series. *Progressive International* (2026).
- "I Was Detained by Israel: Here's What Ben-Gvir Didn't Want You to See." *Zeteo* (2026).
- "Hyperpolitics? Yes, Please." *Protean* (2026).
- "A Single Warehouse in Jersey City Moved Over a Thousand Tons of Military Cargo to Israel Every Week" (co-author). *Drop Site News* (2025).
- "A Reflection on 'Objective' Journalism From the Global Sumud Flotilla." *The Nation* (2025).
- "Fear and Favor in Chicago" (roundtable). *n+1* (2024).
- "This War Is Causing Mass Trauma. How We Respond Matters." *The Nation* (2023).
- "Eros After Covid." *Sidecar*, *New Left Review* (2021).
- "Madness Is Contagious." *The Point* (2016).
- Essays and editorials in *Parapraxis*, 2022–2025. Full list at alexcolston.com/work.

SELECTED BOOKS EDITED OR FACT-CHECKED

Brittany Friedman, *Carceral Apartheid* (UNC, 2025) · Zahid R. Chaudhary, *Paranoid Publics* (Fordham, 2025) · Doyle D. Calhoun, *The Suicide Archive* (Duke, 2024) · Hannah Zeavin, *Mother Media* (MIT) · Carlin Wing, *Bounce* (MIT) · John D. Holmes, *Without a Trace* (Haymarket, 2026) · Tony Curtis Perry, *Reckoning in the Watershed* (UNC) · Teresa Cappiali, *Reframing Immigrant Resistance* (Routledge, 2021) · Christopher Capozzola, *Bound by War* (Basic, 2020) · Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Sexing the Body* (Basic, 2020) · Bhaskar Sunkara, *The Socialist Manifesto* (Basic, 2019)

TEACHING

2022 – 2024 — **Instructor of Record, Introduction to Psychology,** *Duquesne University*
- Designed and taught PSYC 101 for four semesters, Spring 2023 – Fall 2024; teaching assistant, Fall 2022.

2020 – 2021 — **Teaching Assistant,** *Brooklyn Institute for Social Research*
- Six courses with Patrick Blanchfield: Politics and Psychoanalysis (two sections), Freud's Death Drive, Early Freud, Late Freud, Narcissism.

2014 – 2015

Assistant Instructor, *After School Matters* · Chicago

- Taught electronics and audio engineering to high school students, up to thirty per class: students built microphones and theremins and learned to record in all the major digital audio workstations, including Pro Tools.

TALKS, CONFERENCES, AND MEDIA

- Panelist, U.S. journalists detained aboard the Gaza flotillas, Freedom of the Press Foundation (2025).
- Co-chair and presenter, "Frantz Fanon's Phenomenology: Elsewhere and Otherwise," with Leswin Laubscher and Derek Hook; paper, "Fanon, Sartre, and phenomenological trouble." Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences, St. Louis University (2023).
- Prize lecture, "Trans Psychoanalysis and the High Court," Michigan Psychoanalytic Institute (2023).
- Panel chair, "Psychoanalysis and the Politics of the Family," Lacan: Clinic & Culture Conference, Duquesne University (2022).
- Speaker on field reporting from the Gaza flotilla to a visiting school class, *Democracy Now!* studio (2026).
- Interviews: *Democracy Now!*, *Piers Morgan Uncensored*, TRT's *Bigger Than Five* (2026); *Know Your Enemy*, *Ordinary Unhappiness* (2023). Covered in *Columbia Journalism Review* (2025).

SKILLS

Editing	Developmental, line, and copy editing; fact-checking and pre-publication vetting; commissioning and list-building; launching a magazine; print and digital production; rights and permissions
Journalism	Field reporting in hostile settings; open-source and records investigation; FOIA; trauma-informed interviewing; testimony and human-rights documentation; interviewing through translation
Communications	Press relations and spokesperson work; crisis communications; speechwriting; briefings and talking points; live television and podcast interviews
Video and audio	Documentary shooting, editing, color, and sound mixing; scripting and voiceover; captioning; vertical social video; Adobe Premiere Pro and Audition; recording engineering in Pro Tools and all major DAWs; live sound
Digital	Newsletters; social strategy; email marketing (Mailchimp); WordPress, Substack, and Squarespace; Google Analytics and Chartbeat; SEO; Adobe InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop; CRM and database management
Social work	Case management and referral; community outreach and advocacy; crisis intervention; trauma-informed care; supervised psychotherapy with individuals, couples, families, and groups; psychological assessment; risk assessment and safety planning; clinical documentation
Teaching	Syllabus design; undergraduate and adult teaching; seminar and meeting facilitation; youth STEM instruction
Research	Qualitative methods; human-subjects research ethics (CITI certified); academic writing and peer review; conference organizing
Operations	Managing staff, freelancers, and volunteers; remote teams; production scheduling; budgeting and bookkeeping; nonprofit governance and fundraising events; facilities management
Organizing	Coalition building; union organizing; canvassing; mutual aid; political education
Hands-on	Carpentry, construction, and woodworking; basic electrical work and electronics; building maintenance and renovation; deckhand work and vessel upkeep

References available on request

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