

Niko Balkaran

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EDUCATION

Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY

December 2025

Concentration: Business and Economics Reporting

Relevant Coursework: Covering the Economy, Data Journalism, Advanced Multimedia Reporting

York College at CUNY, Queens, NY

May 2023

Bachelor of Arts: Journalism

Award: Janice Cline Justice Award 2023 (Given to a student who demonstrated a commitment to using their work for social justice and equality)

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY

August 2024 - Present

Reporter

- Created a multimedia package about a nonprofit theatre school that lost funding and needs repairs.
- Published a webpage on Github about [NYC's first decline in drug overdose deaths](#) in four years.
- Created an audio profile of Esteban Cabeza de Baca, an NYC artist.

NancyOnNorwalk, Norwalk, CT

June 2025 - August 2025

Reporting Intern

- Pitched and wrote articles across a variety of beats with a community focus.
- **Articles:** [Wegmans Opens First Connecticut Location in Norwalk](#); [Norwalk Pastor Delivers Prayer on House Floor](#); [One Plate, Two Homelands: OSU Jerk Grill Blends Jamaican and Ghanaian Cuisine in Norwalk](#)

The Invisible Hand, NY, NY

February 2025 - May 2025

Reporter

- Pitched and wrote national economic articles focused on consumer spending.
- **Articles:** [What Powered the Scroll Might Not Survive the Tariffs](#); [Five Things To Watch in the April Retail Sales Report](#); [Hearts Break for Valentine's Day as U.S. Retail Sales Decline for the First Time in Four Months](#)

Mott Haven Herald/Hunts Point Express, Bronx, NY

February 2025 - May 2025

Reporter

- Pitched and wrote hyperlocal articles focused on the Bronx.
- **Articles:** [Money Moves | Who Funds What and Why](#); [Tariffs and tension rankle Third Avenue businesses](#); [Rat race: inside the battle to banish New York's rodents](#)

York College's Pandora's Box, Queens, NY

January 2022 – May 2023

Editor-in-Chief

- Assigned, reported, edited stories for a monthly college publication, while managing social media content, crafting engaging headlines and photo captions for visual storytelling. Additionally, led editorial operations with a yearly budget of \$40k.
- **Articles:** [York Alumnus Officially Begins Campaign for Queens DA](#); [First Legal Weed Dispensary in Queens Opens a Block from York College](#); [CUNY Enrollment Drops, Executives Salaries Rise](#).

SKILLS & AFFILIATION

Tech Skills: Adobe (InDesign, Premiere Pro, Photoshop), Pro Tools, Canon C100

Affiliation: Secretary of Newmark J Chapter of AAJA/SAJA; Member of AAJA (national)