

John Fiegner

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Lecturer in Communications, John Cabot University, Rome (February 2024 to present)

- Developed and currently teach undergraduate courses in communication and journalism to combat misinformation, including "Unravelling the Web of Deception: Detecting and Combating Online Disinformation and Misinformation" and "Fact Checking for the Newsroom," both designed to offer theoretical and practical knowledge about information manipulation and verification, with an emphasis on AI-generated content and tools. Additionally, teach Writing Across the Media and Introduction to News Reporting and Writing.

Freelance Journalist/Communications Specialist (2002 – Present)**Contributor at Huffington Post Italia (2018–present)**

- Cover U.S. political and cultural events before and after the 2020 and 2024 presidential elections for an Italian audience. Provide insightful analysis and blogs about U.S. politics since 2016, U.S. foreign policy, and the intersection of geopolitics, culture, disinformation, bad actors, big tech, and AI.

Articles at <https://www.huffingtonpost.it/ricerca/?query=fiegner>

Content Writer/Analyst - Lead Stories LLC (2020 to 2024)

- Wrote and researched content exposing misinformation on social media platforms operated by TikTok and Meta for an international fact-checking website.
- Used journalistic skills to evaluate the integrity and authenticity of information on major global social media platforms, researching and verifying claims with online investigative tools. Analyzed disinformation trends, initially focusing on COVID-19 pandemic misinformation and later shifting to conflicts in MENA and Ukraine, the impact on eastern EU member states, and election integrity.

Lecturer, Istituto Lorenzo de Medici, Rome (2019)

- Developed a course syllabus and taught an undergraduate semester course on International Terrorism at Istituto Lorenzo de Medici, Rome branch, drawing on an extensive background in areas affected by conflict and terrorism.
- Delivered lectures in English on contemporary religious, political, and ethnic supremacist groups, counter-terrorism strategies since 9/11, and the impact of terrorism on political elites and civilian populations.

Media Trainer, Pop Up Media 360, New Delhi (2019)

Conducted newsgathering training seminars at ABP News in New Delhi. Led sessions on newsroom workflow and newsgathering techniques for staff at this prominent all-news TV channel in India.

Senior Producer - CNN, Fox News Channel, and freelance (2002- 2018)

- Covered FNC coverage of political tensions over North Korea's nuclear buildup from Seoul, South Korea, in 2017, and created contingency planning guidance for potential conflict among involved parties.
- Covered CNN and FNC coverage of major terror attacks at a nightclub in Paris and a subsequent search in Brussels in 2015, as well as terror attacks in Nice, France, in 2016.
- Coordinated and produced CNN assignments in Baghdad and Irbil immediately after the ISIS occupation of Mosul and western Iraq, and managed coverage from Baghdad in 2014 following ISIS's capture of Ramadi, and from Irbil after ISIS took control of Sinjar.
- Covered FNC's coverage of the conflict between Pro-Russian forces and the Ukrainian Armed Forces in Ukraine's Donbas region in 2014, coordinating extensive team movements among various armed groups.
- Producer for Kenya and Chad - The Last Animals (2013 to 2014). Helped produce a feature-length documentary about the harmful effects of elephant and rhinoceros poaching in Kenya

(2013) and Chad (2014). Contributed to story development, managed travel logistics, and assisted with sound recording.

- Covered FNC coverage of two Papal conclaves from Vatican City and Rome, including Pope Benedict XVI's resignation and the election of Pope Francis in March 2013, as well as the death of Pope John Paul II, the Papal Conclave, and the election of Pope Benedict XVI in April 2005.
- Operated from Damascus, Syria, and Beirut, Lebanon, from 2012 to 2014, supporting coverage from government-controlled regions of Syria for FNC and CNN.
- Covered the overthrow of Libya's Muammar Gaddafi for FNC, including rebel-controlled Western Libya based in Benghazi during the first half of 2011. Later moved to Tripoli to report from government-controlled areas during the second half.
- Coordinated and produced FNC/Sky News live coverage of the Lebanon-Israel war in 2006 from Tyre and the Southern Lebanon front line.
- Covered the Liberian conflict from Monrovia in 2003, which resulted in the overthrow of Charles Taylor.

As Bureau Chief for FNC in Baghdad and various locations across Iraq (2002 to 2011), I led and managed the first FNC unilateral crews to Baghdad after the US invasion in 2003 until US forces withdrew in 2011. I oversaw editorial and logistical operations, supervising a team of 3 to 160 staff members, including news crews and support personnel, while cultivating relationships with local communities, government, diplomatic, and military sources.

CNN Staff Editor/Producer (1986-2002)

CNN London and worldwide locations as senior producer (1998-2002)

- Produced and coordinated coverage, including the US response to 9/11 and the invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Afghanistan - USS Cole bombing, Aden - Northern Ireland peace talks, Belfast - World Economic Forum, Davos - Slobodan Milosevic arrest, Belgrade - Kosovo conflict - Pakistan military coup - Macedonia conflict - King Hussein and President Hafez Assad funerals - South Africa elections, and many more.

CNN Atlanta and worldwide locations as assignment editor/producer (1988-1998)

- One of four Senior International Assignment Editors at CNN to oversee international newsgathering operations, coordinate international news assignments from more than thirty CNN bureaus, and report daily to CNN producers and executives.
- Additionally, served as Field Producer and covered the Bosnia conflict in Sarajevo, Aristide's return to Haiti in Port au Prince, the Oslo peace accord in Jerusalem, Jericho, the Japanese embassy takeover in Lima, the Iraq Gulf War I, Kuwait City, and assignments at the Moscow bureau.

CNN Atlanta Circuits and Satellite Transmissions Desk Operator (1986-1988)

Global Marine Drilling, Gulf of Mexico (1983-1984)

Served as a roustabout and roughneck for a year on an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico.

Education:

Bachelor of Science in Communications, School of Radio, Television, and Film, University of Texas, Austin, Texas