

TRACIE MCMILLAN

646.233.3424 (desk) • 646.286.8349 (cell)
www.traciemcmillan.com • tracie.m.mcmillan@gmail.com • @TMMcMillan

Affiliations and Recent Work

1999 – Present **Independent, Award-Winning Journalist and Author**

- In 2012, published award-winning book, *The American Way of Eating*, a *New York Times* bestseller;
- Wrote features, news, opinion and analysis pieces for a wide range of publications including *National Geographic*, *Mother Jones*, the *New York Times*, *Slate*, *National Public Radio*, the *Washington Post*, *Harper's*, *Saveur*, and the *American Prospect*; columnist for *On Earth*; blogger for *National Geographic's* food blog, *The Plate*;
- Widespread speaking engagements, media commentary, and public appearances, including "The Rachel Maddow Show," SXSW, Logan Symposium on Investigative Journalism, Chautauqua Institution, and many more.

2017-18; 2014 Professor of Writing

- 2017-2018 "Food Writing: Intersectionality on Your Plate," New York University Steinhardt School of Education, Nutrition and Food Studies Department; graduate level instruction;
- 2014 "Writing About Inequality," Wesleyan University Koepfel Journalism Fellow; undergraduate instruction.

2013 – Present **Committee Member, James Beard Journalism Awards**

- Helped to administer prominent prize for writing about food, helping steer awards towards transparency, accountability, and inclusion

2012 – 2013 **Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellows, University of Michigan**

- Spent academic year on fellowship at university campus in class of 16 journalists
- Participated in fellowship exchange and life, and represented fellowship to prestigious visitors, funders, and international hosts during extensive travel with fellowship.

2011 – Present **Senior Fellow, Institute for Investigative Journalism Brandeis University**

- Participated in collaborative community of journalists specializing in investigative and social-issue reporting.

2000-2005 **Managing Editor, City Limits magazine**

- Managed independent, award-winning monthly magazine covering politics and policy in New York City, and regularly reported news and award-winning features

Books

2012 **Author, *The American Way of Eating* (Scribner)**

- Published *New York Times* bestseller, *The American Way of Eating: Going Undercover at Walmart, Applebee's, Farm Fields and The Dinner Table*, a first-person, undercover investigative book about America's food system. Reporting ranged from undercover jobs across food system to in-depth reporting of the social, political and historical context of the American food system and low-wage labor market;
- Extensive use of DocumentCloud to organize research coming from three different assistants across the country;

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- Widely recognized for its reporting and writing, including:
- Winner, [Sidney Hillman Award](#)
- Winner, [Books for a Better Life Award](#)
- Finalist, [James Beard Journalism Awards](#)
- Finalist, [Investigative Reporters and Editors Awards](#)
- Finalist, [International Association of Culinary Professionals Book Awards](#).
- Select Impact
- Used to frame *Congressional Quarterly's* 2012 report on farm bill, distributed to stakeholders, legislators, advocates and public officials;
- Used in successful community efforts to resist the construction of a new Walmart in Watertown, MA;
- Inspired Betti Wiggins, school food director for Detroit Public Schools, to raise starting wage for her division from minimum wage to \$10 an hour;
- Widely taught across disciplines at universities and colleges across the country, often as a common read.

2013-2016 Contributor, Various Anthologies

- 2016 *The Dirt*, anthology of best work published by the Food and Environment Reporting Network
- 2014 *Local Food Environments*, definitive collection of academic work on food issues
- 2014 *The Detroit Anthology*, anthology of Detroit writers and observers
- 2013 *Best Food Writing 2013*, annual anthology of best food writing in U.S.

Recent Clips of Note

New York Times Sunday Review

- [“White resentment on the night shift at Walmart”](#), 12/17/2016
- [“What do we think poverty looks like?”](#) 7/8/2017

Mother Jones

- [“How One Company Is Making Millions Off Trump’s War on the Poor,”](#) Jan/Feb 2019

National Geographic

- [“The New Face of Hunger,”](#) August 2014
- [“How China Plans to feed 1.4 Billion Growing Appetites,”](#) Feb. 2018
- [“Menu of the Future: Insects, Weeds, and Bleeding Veggie Burgers,”](#) Nov. 2018; international cover story on 10 editions

Food & Wine

- [“19 Great Restaurants to Work For,”](#) March 15, 2019
- [“Great Restaurants to Work For: How We Chose the 2019 Winners”](#) March 15, 2019

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Film, Radio, TV and Adaptations (Select)

- “Good Food with Evan Kleiman,” *KCRW*, slated for August 2014 broadcast (*radio*)
- National Geographic Radio, national broadcast, slated for August 14, 2014 (*radio and podcast*)
- The Osgood Files, CBS Radio national broadcast, August 6, 2014 (*radio*)
- Happening Now, Fox News national broadcast, August 4, 2014 (*television*)
- Tavis Smiley Show, national broadcast; August 1, 2014 (*radio*)
- Word of Mouth, New Hampshire Public Radio, local broadcast; August 2014 (*radio*)
- Talk of Iowa with Charity Nebbe, Iowa Public Radio; July 31, 2014 (*radio*)
- Leonard Lopate Show, WNYC, New York broadcast; July 28, 2014 (*radio*)
- Radio Times, WHYY Philadelphia, local broadcast; July 16, 2014 (*radio*)
- All Things Considered, NPR, national broadcast; Nov. 14, 2013 (*radio*)
- Talk of Iowa, IPR; Oct. 15, 2013 (*radio*)
- “*The American Way of Eating: The Play*,” University of Northern Iowa, Sept. 2013 (*dramatic performance with original script*)
- KCUR-FM Kansas City; Jan. 10, 2013 (*radio*)
- WAMC/Northeast Public Radio; Jan. 9, 2013 (*radio*)
- “The Splendid Table,” American Public Media, national broadcast; August 25, 2012 (*radio*)
- C-Span Book TV; April 21, 2012 (*radio*)
- Patt Morrison, KPCC/Southern CA Public Radio, Los Angeles; April 17, 2012 (*radio*)
- Marketplace Money, American Public Media, national broadcast; Oct. 26, 2012 (*radio*)
- New Hampshire Public Radio; July 28, 2012 (*radio*)
- The Frank Beckman Show, WJR Radio, Detroit; April 3, 2012 (*radio*)
- Q, CBC Radio; April 2, 2012 (*radio*)
- Gary Null Radio; March 14, 2012 (*radio*)
- Politics Nation with Al Sharpton, MSNBC; March 8, 2012 (*television*)
- Jansing & Co with Chris Jansing, MSNBC; March 8, 2012 (*television*)
- Rachel Maddow Show, MSNBC; March 7, 2012 (*television*)
- KCBS San Francisco; March 1, 2012 (*radio*)
- David Sirota Show, Denver, CO; March 1, 2012 (*radio*)
- Wisconsin Public Radio, Madison, WI; March 1, 2012 (*radio*)
- The Leonard Lopate Show, WNYC; Feb. 27 2012 (*radio*)
- Marketplace, American Public Media, national broadcast; Feb. 21, 2012 (*radio*)

Speeches and Public Appearances (Select)

- “Making Restaurants Good Workplaces,” FoodLab Detroit, March 28, 2016
- “The Future of Food,” National Geographic at SXSW, March 10, 2016
- “On Undercover Reporting,” Logan Symposium on Investigative Reporting, April 29, 2017
- Keynote Address, National Farm Worker Law Conference, Nov. 9, 2016
- “From Jiffy to Maseca,” Southern Foodways Alliance Fall Symposium, October 13-15, 2016
- “Food as a Working Class Issue,” Critical Issues Lecture Series, University of Michigan-Flint, Oct. 4-6, 2016
- “Undercover in the Food System,” Highpoint University Freshman Common Read Program, Sept. 15-16, 2016

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- “Undercover in the Food System,” West Virginia University, Freshman Common Read Program, April 8, 2016
- “Undercover in the Food System,” Texas A&M Common Read program, October 5, 2015
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” North Country School; scheduled for April 19, 2015
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Monroe County Public Library Community Read Lecture; scheduled for April 15, 2015
- Panel moderator, James Beard Foundation Food Conference, New York, NY; scheduled for Oct. 27-28, 2014
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Winona University; scheduled for Sept. 29, 2014; highlighting selection of *The American Way of Eating* as campus-wide read
- “Hunger in America,” Chautauqua Institute, Chautauqua, New York; July 1, 2013
- “Beyond Foodies: Going Undercover in the Food System,” Ellen Gstalter Memorial Lecture, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; scheduled for April 3, 2014
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Community-wide Reading Program, Kalamazoo Public Library, Kalamazoo, MI; scheduled for March 5, 2014
- “Writing About Going Undercover in the Food System,” University of Northern Iowa; October 13, 2013; freshman common read
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Colorado State University and Poudre River Libraries, Fort Collins, CO; Community reads program; Sept. 18, 2013
- “Tackling Key Challenges/Opportunities in Changing Research and Policy Across the Food System,” Panelist; Berkeley Sustainable Food Systems Institute Inaugural Symposium, University of California-Berkeley; May 6, 2013.
- “Writing About Food, Writing About Poverty,” University of Mississippi at Oxford Center for Writing and Rhetoric and Southern Foodways Alliance, Oxford, MS; Feb. 25, 2013
- “Going Undercover in American Food Culture,” Seattle Town Hall, Seattle, WA; October 17, 2012
- “Labor in the Food System,” Capitol Hill Hotel, Washington, DC; October 15, 2012
- “The Food Dialogues,” US Farmers and Rancher’s Alliance, the Times Center, New York City; October 4, 2012
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Whole Foods Headquarters, Austin, TX; September 24, 2012
- “Rethinking Food Politics in America: From Farmer’s Markets to Walmart,” Monadnock Lyceum, Monadnock, NH; July 21, 2012
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Northwestern University, Evanston, IL; May 21, 2012
- “Food, Labor and Concentration of Power,” panel discussion, American University, Washington, DC; April 27, 2012
- “Is Eating Well Just for the Rich?” Zocalo Public Square and KCRW’s Evan Kleiman, Goethe Institut, Los Angeles; April 19, 2012
- “The Intersection of Food and Labor: Tales from Undercover,” Restaurant Opportunities Center, Detroit, MI; April 5, 2012
- “9 Things I Learned About America’s Food By Going Undercover,” University of Michigan-Dearborn; April 4, 2012
- “Reporting on Food, From the Bottom Up,” Knight Journalism Bootcamp on Food Politics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; March 30, 2012
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” Boston University; March 29, 2012
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” University of Pennsylvania; March 28, 2012

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- “Urban Foodies and The Food System,” Next City Storefront, Philadelphia; March 27, 2012
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” 18 Reasons, San Francisco; March 22, 2013
- “Labor and Sustainable Food,” Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainable Agriculture, San Francisco, CA; March 20, 2012
- “Going Undercover in the Food System,” University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism; March 14, 2012
- “A Conversation with Barry Estabrook, Jonathan Bloom and Tracie McMillan: Bringing Food Politics to Local Food,” Edible Institute, Santa Barbara, CA; March 10, 2012
- “What Farm Work Is Really Like,” UC Santa Cruz; March 7, 2012.
- “Walmart and New York City’s Food System,” New America Foundation, New York City; Feb. 28, 2012
- “Real Food vs. Affordable Food,” Just Food Conference, New York City; Feb. 25, 2012
- “The Anti-Foodie Foodies,” Housing Works Bookstore, New York City; Feb. 21, 2012

Awards and Recognition

James Beard Journalism Award (2013)

- **Winner, “As Common As Dirt,”** *The American Prospect*
- Finalist twice previously; highlighted as a notable finalist by *The New Yorker*

Book awards (2013)

- The five awards I received for *The American Way of Eating* are listed under “Books”

Whole Living magazine: Food Visionary (2012)

- Named a leading “Food Visionary” in prominent consumer magazine

Mesa Refuge Residency (2011)

- Awarded residency for writers addressing issues of social justice

Fund for Investigative Journalism (2010)

- Awarded grant to pursue reporting on farm labor and completion of book

James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism (2006)

- Won national prize for journalism measuring business, governmental and social affairs against the common good, for a feature series on poverty issues, **“Getting By.”**

Livingston Award for Young Journalists (2006)

- Finalist, for **“Getting By”**

Wesleyan Writer's Conference (2006)

- Recipient of Jon Davidoff Scholarship, awarded to journalists of unusual promise

Harry Chapin Media Award (2005)

- Won national prize rewarding outstanding coverage of poverty and hunger issues, for **“The Action Diet”** (*City Limits*, July/August 2004) and its accompanying data project, **“Where to Grab a Bite in NYC”**; was finalist twice previous, for **“Market Babies”** (*City Limits*, January 2003), and **“The Great Training Robbery”** (*City Limits*, 2002)

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- **Impact:** *The Action Diet* included the first analysis of food access in New York and developed a metric that is now in wide use to measure whether neighborhoods has sufficient access to healthy food, and led Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez to introduce legislation encouraging bodega owners to stock healthy food.

Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism (2004)

- Honorable mention for national prize rewarding outstanding coverage of issues facing children and families, for "[Market Babies](#)" (*City Limits*, January 2003), which chronicled the ways the rise of home-based child care under the Giuliani administration's welfare reforms failed to live up to its promises

University of Maryland Journalism Fellowships (2004)

- Fellow in program helping journalists examine how social policies affect children

Education

- 1994-1999 New York University, B.A.
- Magna cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa

Language

- Conversational Spanish