

# Tracie McMillan Independent Journalist

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Detroit, MI / Brooklyn, NY

## SKILLS

- Synthesizing scholarship, political analysis, and data
- Beat, investigative, and narrative reporting
- In-person reporting with wide range of people
- Discussing race and racial advantage with white Americans
- Media appearances
- Working Spanish

## SUBJECT EXPERTISE

- Racial dimension of class
- Lived experience of poverty across U.S.
- Public benefits: SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, ACA
- Food systems
- Worker organizing
- Low-wage work

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### AWARD-WINNING NONFICTION AUTHOR

#### [The White Bonus: Five Families and the Cash Value of Racism in America](#) (Henry Holt & Co., 2024)

- 8-year investigation of cash value of racism to 5 white Americans, with field reporting across 8 states, 3 generations and varying class positions
- Expert synthesis of academic work, data, and story
- Sensitive reporting with white Americans on their relationship to racial advantage and class position
- NPR "Book of the Day;" featured by four dozen outlets

#### [The American Way of Eating: Undercover at Wal-Mart, Applebee's, Farm Fields, and the Dinner Table](#) (Scribner, 2012)

- Undercover project in California, Michigan, New York
- *New York Times* bestseller
- Reported under duress, including poverty and assault
- Winner, Sidney Hillman Book Prize; Books for a Better Life
- Finalist, Investigative Reporters and Editors Book Award, James Beard Foundation Journalism Awards

### INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALIST, 2005 - PRESENT

- Reported [award-winning](#) journalism, news, and essays
- Worked in field on assignment and remotely at desk
- Reported ground-level narrative in-person across U.S.
- Rigorous attention to the lived experience of America's multiracial working class, and how government and business shape those experiences
- Wide range of stories marrying intimate narrative with analysis, covering the [unspoken racialization of class](#) and [white resentment at Walmart](#) (*New York Times*), [monetization of the safety net](#) (*Mother Jones*), [hunger as a product of low wages and a punitive safety net](#) (*National Geographic*), [the human cost of farm labor contracting](#) (American Prospect; winner James Beard Foundation Journalism Award), and [many others](#)
- Media [appearances](#) and public [events](#) to discuss work
- Mentored young journalists

## FELLOWSHIPS, ETC.

- Russell Sage Foundation, 2022
- MacDowell, 2020
- Type Investigations grant, 2017-2019
- James Beard Foundation Journalism Awards committee, 2013-2021
- Knight-Wallace Journalism Fellowships. 2012-2013
- Mesa Refuge, 2011
- Fund for Investigative Journalism grant, 2010
- Journalism Fellowship in Child and Family Policy at University of Maryland, 2004

## EDUCATION

- B.A., New York University, 1999; Political Science
- Magna cum laude
- Multiple scholarships, including Alumni, Rudin Internship, National Merit Finalist

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## SERIES EDITOR, "STRIKING BACK" • CAPITAL & MAIN JULY 2023 - PRESENT

- Contract editor, leading [largest reporting project on new worker organizing](#)—union and nonunion alike—in the U.S.
- Boosted byline diversity, with story bylines for series at 37% reporters of color and 54% female reporters by mid-January.

## MANAGING EDITOR • CITY LIMITS • 2001 - 2005

- Led and managed editorial production of independent monthly magazine on politics and policy in New York City
- Broke stories on low-wage work and welfare reform under Mayors Giuliani and Bloomberg, and covered city politics
- Notable, beat-leading stories include an [unpublicized overhaul welfare-to-work contracts affecting 93,000 people](#). (Runner up, Casey Medal); [groundbreaking coverage of food access](#), including a metric the city later adopted and exposing city's failure to transition electronic benefit cards to farmer's markets (Winner, Harry Chapin Media Award); and an [award-winning series on post-welfare reform poverty in New York City](#) (Winner, Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism; finalist, Livingston Award for Young Journalists finalist)

## PRE-PROFESSIONAL WORK

- **The Village Voice • 1997-1998**  
Apprenticed under investigative reporter Wayne Barrett  
Learned investigative technique, investigated [sweatshops](#), [interviewed](#) families of victims of 1991 City College stampede.
- **Dissent • 1996, 1998**  
Entry level editorial work at journal of the democratic left
- **Miscellaneous, 1990 - 1996**  
Michigan: Food service at apple orchard; babysitter; hostess, Big Boy; server, Beau Jack's restaurant  
New York City: Babysitter; nanny; tutor; personal assistant; administrative assistant; telemarketer; server; AmeriCorps