

Simon Columbus

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SUMMARY

- Student of psychology, economics and information at a liberal arts college.
- Professional author with four years of experience in writing for online media.
- Activist dedicated to fighting surveillance and supporting digital activists.
- Experience in institutional and individual research on ICTs and society.

EDUCATION

Amsterdam University College **Amsterdam, NL**
BA (hons.), Psychology, Economics & Information *09/2010-present*

- Joint degree from Universiteit van Amsterdam and VU Amsterdam.

Rudolf-Steiner-Schule Siegen **Siegen, GER**
Allg. Hochschulreife (university entrance diploma) *08/1996-07/2009*

- Graduated best of class (1.2 on a scale up to 1.0).

SCHOLARSHIPS

Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes **Germany**
Monthly stipend *02/2011-present*

Beta Beurs **Amsterdam, NL**
Capstone research scholarship (4000 €) *12/2011*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Freelance Journalist

Germany

Online Journalist

02/2008-present

- Wrote articles for various online media, including Zeit Online, Spreeblick, and the Heinrich Böll Foundation.

gulli:news

Siegen & Berlin, GER

Author & Assistant Editor

03/2008-02/2010

- Wrote news articles about Internet politics, surveillance and security policy, as well as social media and free culture; copy-edited articles for publication.

INTERNSHIPS

Bits of Freedom

Amsterdam, NL

Guest Blogger

02/2012-05/2012

- Will write about Dutch Internet policy for an international audience.

Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Harvard U.

Cambridge, USA

Research Intern, OpenNet Initiative

06/2011-08/2011

- Authored and updated country profiles on Internet access in sub-Saharan Africa; wrote news articles on issues of freedom of expression on the Internet.

Spreeblick Verlag KG

Berlin, GER

Blogging Intern, Spreeblick

03/2010-06/2010

- Wrote news articles about Internet politics, German & international affairs; reported from local and international events; supported re:publica conference.

newthinking communications GmbH

Berlin, GER

Blogging Intern, netzpolitik.org

10/2009-02/2010

- Wrote news articles about Internet politics; helped write working paper on ICT for development; supported planning of the re:publica conference.

SOCIOPOLITICAL ACTIVITIES (selection)

AUC Internet & Society

Amsterdam, NL

Founder

11/2010-03/2011

- Organized a bi-weekly discussion group; presented on various topics.

Über Armut Siegen

Siegen, GER

Co-organizer, school representative

05/2008-09-2008

- Co-organized a city-wide inter-school poverty awareness event, organized a school-wide action day, organized a panel discussion.

DigiActive

Online

Global Correspondent

04/2008-11/2010

- Wrote case studies and calls for action on international digital activism campaigns. Compiled a list of arrested bloggers.

Privacy Workshop Project

Siegen, GER

Co-founder

12/2007-06/2010

- Co-organized and led workshops on privacy and data security in the Internet age for pupils and high school students; taught practical encryption skills.

Arbeitskreis Vorratsdatenspeicherung, Siegen Chapter

Siegen, GER

Co-founder

04/2007-07/2010

- Planned and participated in information stands and critical art performances to raise awareness for various forms of surveillance.

PUBLICATIONS

Book Chapters & Journal Papers

Mutsvairo, B. & Columbus, S. [under review]. Emerging Patterns and Trends in Citizen Journalism in Africa: A Case of Zimbabwe. *Central European Journal of Communication* 5(1).

Columbus, S. [forthcoming]. Is the Mobile Phone a Disruptive Technology? A Partial Review of Evidence From Developing Economies. In N. Ekekwe & N. Islam (eds.), *Disruptive Technologies, Innovation, and Global Redesign: Emerging Implications*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Mutsvairo, B., Columbus, S., & Klamroth, L. [forthcoming]. Rethinking Mass Communication Theories in the Internet Era. In N. Ekekwe & N. Islam (eds.), *Disruptive Technologies, Innovation, and Global Redesign: Emerging Implications*. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Columbus, S. (2010). Prisons and Persecution: The New Casualties. In M. Joyce, *Digital Activism Decoded: The New Mechanics of Change*. New York, NY: IDEBATE Press.

Blogs

i like patterns 06/2009-present

- Published more than 60 articles in English on issues related to digitalization, including digital activism, free culture and online media.

Blogger for Freedom 10/2007-03/2008

- Wrote more than 70 articles in German and English on digital activism campaigns and the persecution of digital activists. Created a database of imprisoned bloggers.

simoncolumbus.de 02/2007-present

- Published more than 450 articles in German on various issues, including Internet politics, German affairs, and the Middle East. Mostly inactive today.

Articles

Wrote more than 500 articles for various on- and offline media, including netzpolitik.org, Spreeblick.com and gulli:news. For a complete list of publications, please see <http://www.simoncolumbus.com/about/publications>.

CONFERENCES (selection)

Deutsche Welle Young Media Summit <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invited participant	Tunis, TUN November 2011
Hyper-Public <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant	Cambridge, MA June 2011
re:publica 2011 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official conference blogger	Berlin, GER April 2011
2nd International Youth Innovation Forum Interra <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panelist: New Media Forum.	Novosibirsk, RUS September 2010
Deutsche Welle Global Media Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant. Blogged the conference for Spreeblick.com	Bonn, GER June 2010
SigInt 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant. Blogged the conference for Spreeblick.com	Cologne, GER May 2010
re:publica 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Official conference blogger	Berlin, GER April 2010
YouthExchange 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant. Blogged the conference for Spreeblick.com	Budapest, HUN April 2010
Miniblogika <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speaker: Germany's "Zensursula" Campaign	Novosibirsk, RUS March 2010
transmediale.10: Futurity Now! <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant. Blogged the conference for netzpolitik.org	Berlin, GER January 2010
26C3: Here Be Dragons <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant. Blogged the conference for netzpolitik.org	Berlin, GER December 2009
BerlinInOctober <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participant. Blogged the conference for netzpolitik.org	Berlin, GER October 2009

- 1st International Youth Innovation Forum Interra** **Novosibirsk, RUS**
- Official conference blogger invited by the Goethe Institute September 2009
 - Panelist: Regulating behavior in the blogosphere
- SigInt 2009** **Cologne, GER**
- Participant. Covered the conference for gulli:news May 2009
- 25C3: Nothing To Hide** **Berlin, GER**
- Participant. Covered the conference for gulli:news December 2008
- Towards Networked Protest Politics** **Siegen, GER**
- Participant: Blogged the conference for netzpolitik.org November 2008
- meta rhein main chaos days 11b** **Darmstadt, GER**
- Speaker: On digital activism September 2008
 - Panelist: The situation of Germany's data security movement
- Global Voices Citizen Media Summit** **Budapest, HUN**
- Participant July 2008

SKILLS

Languages

- Native German;
- Fluent English (Internet-based TOEFL: 112);
- Intermediate level of Dutch;
- Intermediate level of French;
- Beginner's level of Modern Standard Arabic.

IT

- Office and presentation software: MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint; OpenOffice Writer, Calc, Impress; Prezi.
- Data analysis software: SPSS, some experience with Weka.
- Social media: WordPress, Twitter, Facebook; taught workshops on privacy in social networks.