

## 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.

**McGill University** **Montreal, CND**  
Exchange semester *09/2012-12/2012*

**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

### **Emerson College**

**Well, NL**

Teaching Assistant

02/2012-present

- Teaching assistant for Drs. Bruce Mutsvairo.

### **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

### **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. (2012). 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* (pp. 46-62). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Mutsvairo, B., Columbus, S., & Klamroth, L. (2012). Rethinking Mass Communication Theories in the Internet Era. In N. Ekekwe & N. Islam (eds.), *Disruptive Technologies, Innovation, and Global Redesign: Emerging Implications* (pp. 345-356). 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)

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

- 1<sup>st</sup> 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.