

Sophia Qureshi

qureshi.sophia@gmail.com | 202.997.4211 | 240 Chelsea Drive, Decatur, GA 30030

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Award-winning journalist covering immigrant communities in the South. Founder and publisher of 285 South, the first and only publication dedicated to Metro Atlanta's immigrant communities. Freelance writer for *Canopy Atlanta*, *Atlanta Magazine*, *The Atlanta History Center*, and the *Atlanta Civic Circle*. Bi-cultural and multilingual.

Over 15 years experience working in news media and communications at *Al Jazeera Media Network*, *South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)*, *United Nations Development Programme*, *CNN*, and *The Center for Public Integrity (CPI)*.

WORK HISTORY

Founder, Executive Editor and Writer 08/2021 - present

285 SOUTH

- Launched the first ever news site dedicated to covering stories impacting immigrants and refugees in Metro Atlanta
- Wrote and edited more than 150 posts and articles on everything from mental health to community profiles to affordable housing.
- Managed and grew social media accounts and subscriber list to reach an audience of over 10,000.

Writer-in-Residence 02/2023 - present

CANOPY ATLANTA

- Published stories on historically underreported neighborhoods of Metro Atlanta
- Trained community fellows on how to report on their neighborhoods
- Collaborating with Canopy teams and community partners to produce a magazine about the immigrant dense city of Norcross

Freelance Writer 8/2021 - present

- Published long form feature stories for *Atlanta Magazine* on Afghan resettlement, Rohingya refugees in Clarkston, and Haitian churches
- Wrote and published stories exploring the connections between food and home/identity for *Atlanta Magazine*, *Atlanta History Center*, *The Local Palate*
- Pitched, launched, and wrote the series "Representing Georgia" for the *Atlanta Civic Circle*, featuring profiles of state lawmakers with immigrant backgrounds

Director of Communications 10/2018 to 12/2020

SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER (SAALT)

- Co-wrote report on South Asian Americans and COVID-19
- Led communications campaigns around immigrant rights, hate violence, detention
- Directed media relations and led all digital communications

Communications Fellow, Nieman Foundation Affiliate, 08/2017 to 10/2018

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- Completed courses in public speaking, narrative nonfiction and fiction writing, and international humanitarian law

Director of Communications and Partnerships, 05/2016 to 1/2017

The CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY

- Established media partnerships for the Center including: Al Jazeera English, NPR, The Guardian
- Led press and communications for the Center's 2016 presidential election coverage

Interview Producer and Fact Checker, 05/2013 to 04/2016

AL JAZEERA AMERICA

- Produced live interview segments for nightly current affairs show.
- Researched and produced stories on the Senate Torture Report, US Drone Victims, Bangladeshi garment workers
- Fact checked stories

Communications specialist, 09/2012 to 05/2013

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

- Led the launch of the 2013 Human Development Report and Human Development Index
- Produced media placement for UNDP on Al Jazeera English TV and AJE online
- Expanded UNDP's social media communities on Facebook and Twitter

Head of Outreach; Producer, 10/2006 to 09/2012

AL JAZEERA MEDIA NETWORK

- Established communications strategy in the Americas
- Planned and produced inaugural Al Jazeera U.S. Forum, including booking key guests Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi and Senator John McCain
- Developed contact list of over 1,000 high-profile guests, including foreign policy experts, politicians and leaders of international organizations

News Assistant; 06/2004 to 09/2006

CNN

- Assisted with transcribing interviews, running scripts, research, and teleprompting
- Produced stories out of CNN India bureau and CNN Washington bureau

Awards and recognition

Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism fellowship, 2024

Atlanta Press Club Award for Narrative Nonfiction, 2023

Raksha Community Change Award, 2023

Education

M.A: Communication, Culture, and Technology, 2006

Georgetown University

B.A: Political Science, Global Studies, 2004

The University of Georgia