

Winners of the James Aronson Awards for Social Justice Journalism

[Department of Film & Media Studies](#)

Hunter College of the City University of New York

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CONTACT: Tami Gold & Blanca Vázquez
Co-Directors
tamigold@mindspring.com
718 801-0381

Public invited to awards event at the Lang Recital Hall, Hunter College Tuesday, April 25th, 2017

“I believe that there is in the United States a company of honest journalists of all ages, conscious of the potential power of an informed people . . .” — James Aronson

We are proud to announce that Gary Younge, who has reported for 12 years from the United States for *The Guardian* and *The Nation*, is our keynote speaker and winner of the Aronson Career Achievement Award. This year we honor journalists whose stories reveal the complexity of lives on both sides of the Texas border to understand what drives Central Americans to seek work and U.S. companies to hire them; look deeply and movingly at how violence and poverty affect children in Ferguson, Missouri; dig into gross violations of civil rights in the enforcement of nuisance abatement laws in New York City; highlight the battles of Native American tribes to protect a precious resource in states across the country; examine how a flawed drug test ensnared the innocent in criminal proceedings; and show us that a local journalist can become a catalyst for social justice and change.

Winners will discuss their inspiration and the challenges of reporting these stories at a free **public presentation Tuesday, April 25th from 6:30-9 p.m.** at the Lang Recital Hall at Hunter College, 695 Park Avenue, New York City. The awards ceremony will be hosted by esteemed journalist Katti Gray.

The winners are:

Gary Younge, Keynote and Career Achievement Award

Whether writing in lucid prose about the deferred dream of Barack Obama, his own identity as a black Briton in a predominantly white society, or the prevalence of guns and violence in American life, Gary Younge’s award-winning work has been probing, illuminating and insightful. An editor-at-large for *The Guardian*, Younge has received numerous awards, including the David Nyhan Prize from Harvard University, and was an Alfred Knobler Fellow at the Nation Institution.

Nancy Cambria, Photos and video by Laurie Skrivan

The Crisis Within, How Toxic Stress and Trauma Endanger Our Children

St Louis Post-Dispatch

A powerfully moving and unique look at Ferguson, Missouri through the lens of the detrimental health impact to children surviving in violence and poverty and how local programs help families cope and heal. <http://graphics.stltoday.com/apps/stress/>

Sarah Ryley, Nuisance Abatement, *The Daily News* and ProPublica

This series on nuisance abatement broke a huge story about a deceptive and damaging law enforcement campaign in a way that combined great investigative reporting and real, human-scale journalism.

<https://www.propublica.org/article/nypd-nuisance-abatement-evictions>

Ryan Gabrielson and Topher Sanders, Busted

ProPublica, co-published with *The New York Times Magazine*

A terribly flawed \$2 drug testing system was destroying lives in Houston. A 43-year-old woman's ordeal was the face of the problem for many victims. Kudos to the reporters for tracking down that woman, who did not know she was cleared and double kudos for their tenacity despite intimidation and bureaucratic blocking. <https://www.propublica.org/series/busted>

Texas Tribune Staff for Bordering on Insecurity

Texas Tribune

This comprehensive series provides an invaluable up-close look at the dynamics of immigration at the U.S.–Mexico border, delving deep into the forces driving immigrants northward, their embedding into the Texas economy, the tensions between federal immigration authorities and local law enforcement, and more, bringing clear-eyed factual reporting to a subject that urgently needs informed attention today. <https://apps.texastribune.org/bordering-on-insecurity/>

Brian Bienkowski, Sacred Water: Environmental Justice in Indian Country

Environmental Health News

This yearlong investigation of Native Americans' nationwide fight for clean water offers stories from the Crow Tribe, the Menominee Indians of Wisconsin, and the Coast Salish tribes in the Pacific Northwest, as they organize to protect resources they consider sacred and imbued with deep cultural meaning. <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2016/tribal-series/sacred-water>

Ernest Owens, Honorary Mention

Gayborhood Racism: Covering Acts of Racial Discrimination in Philadelphia's LGBTQ Community, *Philadelphia Magazine*

Investigating and reporting on complaints from community members of color who alleged that several popular gay bars were discriminating against them led to boycotts, protests and formal complaints to the Philadelphia Commission on Human Relations.

<http://www.phillymag.com/g-philly/2016/05/02/icandy-timberland-boots-ban/>



Cartooning with a Conscience

Pat Bagley

The editorial cartoonist for *The Salt Lake Tribune* for 38 years, Bagley is a popular commentator on the comic politics of Red State Utah. One of the most reprinted syndicated cartoonist with politicalcartoons.com, Bagley has won prestigious cartooning awards, including the 2009 Herblock Award, co-winner of the prestigious Prix de l'humor Vache in France, and was a finalist for the 2014 Pulitzer Prize.