

Dillon Bergin

I use data to power investigative reporting. That often means interrogating official data sources or compiling new data. Sometimes the new information helps individuals tell their stories on their own terms. Almost always, though, my reporting begins and ends with two questions: Who does the data serve? What does the data conceal?



Work Experience

Current
|
2021

Senior Journalism Fellow

MuckRock and the Brown Institute for Media Innovation

📍 Philadelphia, PA

- Led reporters from five newsrooms in an investigation that revealed areas of the country where hundreds of COVID-19 deaths were likely uncounted in the official toll
- Built a database on changing causes of death during the pandemic for every county in the country, using special access to the CDC's mortality API. Combined this data with other datasets to develop resources for other newsrooms, including a webinar and reporting recipe
- Wrote quick turn-around news stories, reporting recipes, and contributed to MuckRock's yearly round-up of FOIA horror stories called "The Foilies"

2021
|
2020

Investigative Reporter

Searchlight New Mexico

📍 Albuquerque, NM

- Planned and led an award-winning series called "Eviction Epidemic," using court records to dig into New Mexico's housing crisis
- Scraped, cleaned, and analyzed over 100,000 court records from New Mexico's electronic court records system to pull the eviction documents that formed the foundation of the "Eviction Epidemic" series
- Reported and fact-checked several longform investigative stories

2020
|
2019

Fulbright Journalism Grantee

Fulbright Germany

📍 Freiburg, Germany

- Lived in a treehouse city with about 70 environmental activists, documenting their struggle to stop deforestation on the edge of Europe's largest open-pit coal mine
- Interviewed dozens of community members, activists, police, and coal company employees in Germany's coal region

2019
|
2018

Research Fellow

Andrea Mitchell Center for the Study of Democracy

📍 Philadelphia, PA

- Conducted interviews and archival research in South Africa for senior thesis on the #FeesMustFall student protest movement
- Presented thesis paper at a public conference hosted by the Andrea Mitchell Center for Democracy

2018
|
2018

Editorial Intern

Philadelphia Inquirer

📍 Philadelphia, PA

- Fact-checked daily op-eds sent to the Inquirer's editorial board
- Wrote "viewpoints" articles, interviewing Philadelphians across the city about issues like the opioid crisis or patriotism

Contact

✉ news.dillonbergin@gmail.com

🐦 [@DillonBergin](https://twitter.com/DillonBergin)

🔗 github.com/DillonBergin

🔗 dillonbergin.com

in linkedin.com/in/dillon-bergin

Journalism Awards

National Headliner Awards, First Place in Online Pandemic Coverage

Sigma Data Journalism Awards, Shortlisted for Best Data Journalism Project

Society of Professional Journalists, First Place in Public Service for Rocky Mountain Region

Computer Languages

Tidyverse in R

Git and GitHub

Python

HTML and CSS

SQL

Human Languages

English

German

Spanish

Made with the R package [datadrivencv](https://github.com/dadrivencv).

The source code is available [on github.com/DillonBergin/my_resume](https://github.com/DillonBergin/my_resume).

Last updated on 2022-05-05.

View this CV online with links at https://dillonbergin.github.io/my_resume/



Education

2019
|
2015



B.A., Comparative Literature

University of Pennsylvania

📍 Philadelphia, PA

- Awarded Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and Dean's List honors
- Completed department's honors program with thesis titled "Writing, Righting, and Rioting: #FeesMustFall in South Africa"
- Studied German literature for one year at Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, enrolled directly as a full-time student