

RALITSA VASSILEVA

Journalism Lecturer & Distinguished CNN Journalist

Email: ralitsa.vassileva@uga.edu • Phone: (770) 401-4926 • www.linkedin.com/in/ralitsavassileva

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Award winning journalist with more than 20 years experience as CNN anchor skilled in handling breaking news, content writer in the newsroom and correspondent in the field. BITV News Director managing daily coverage and strategy across various news platforms. Multimedia writer and consultant for environmental think tank Sustainia. Journalism lecturer teaching local news broadcasting and multimedia reporting of sustainability. Speaker, moderator and emcee at international forums distilling complex issues for diverse audiences.

SUMMARY

- Journalism lecturer at Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, UGA teaching practical news skills
- Multimedia writer and consultant at Sustainia, Copenhagen-based environmental think tank
- U.S. Bureau News Director of BITV managing day-to-day operations, planning network coverage and anchoring primetime newscast
- CNN News Anchor and Correspondent handling breaking and daily news; reporting; distilling complex information for diverse audiences; interviewing world leaders

“Viewers must trust the anchor's judgment. When the late Walter Cronkite used to say, ‘And that's the way it is,’ viewers would nod and say to themselves, ‘That must be the way it is.’ Ms. Vassileva has always elicited that kind of confidence in her reporting.”

Bill Schneider
Prof of Policy, Government and International Affairs, George Mason University

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

August 2019 - present: Lecturer, Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Athens GA

- Lecturer, live broadcasting of local news and in-depth multimedia reporting about sustainability
- Teaches news gathering; production, and presentation for live student newscasts
- Teaches multiplatform reporting of sustainability for student online and social media dissemination

April 2018 - July 2019: Multimedia writer & editor, communications consultant, Sustainia

- Writes and edits content for Sustainia's digital media featuring subject experts like Pulitzer winning NY Times columnist Thomas Friedman; Unilever CEO Paul Polman; EU Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager; Former EU Climate Action Commissioner Connie Hedegaard;
- Advises CEO on communications for global think tank to show how innovative ideas can transform environmental problems into practical solutions
- Represents company as spokesperson and leads expert discussions at high-level events, for the UN, World Health Organization, World Bank and EU

August 2015 – March 2018: US News Director, Chicago Anchor and Correspondent, Bulgarian International TV (BITV)

- Provides hands-on leadership of BITV's Chicago-based 9 reporters, producers and technical staff while collaborating with senior leadership and correspondents in multiple world locations. Plans work assignments, coverage strategy and content for network newscasts and social media.
- Deeply involved in reporting U.S policy, the administration of President Donald Trump

and other major U.S news stories.

- Develops, produces, and successfully implements BITV's 2016 Election Campaign coverage. Conducts interviews with major public figures like U.S Presidential candidate Ben Carson, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Civil Rights leader Jessie Jackson.

January 1992 – January 2015: News Anchor and Correspondent, CNN International

- Anchors daily and breaking news for CNN's global audience. Writes across CNN's platforms, distilling complex information under tight deadlines. Reports from Europe, Asia and the Middle East.
- Conducts live interviews with world leaders on international events and crises, including: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat; former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, former Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf; former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad; former U.S Secretaries of State Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright; entrepreneurs Richard Branson and Ted Turner
- Trains anchors, reporters and writers at CNN and network affiliates around world; represents CNN's brand with personal appearances explaining CNN policies

EDUCATION

MA, Political Science, Georgia State University, 2010; MA, English Language and Literature, University of Sofia, Bulgaria;

Languages: English (fluent); Bulgarian (fluent); Russian (intermediate)

AWARDS

Doctor of Humane Letters, American University in Bulgaria, for contributions to journalism. Shared Awards: Peabody: Coverage of the Arab Spring 2011; Peabody: Coverage of the Gulf Oil Spill 2011; Peabody: Coverage of the 2008 US Election; Peabody: Coverage of the Tsunami Disaster in South Asia, 2005; DuPont Columbia University Award and The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences: Coverage of September 11, 2001.

LECTURING AND MENTORING EXAMPLES

“ Thank you Ralitsa Vassileva and #sustainia for a very inspiring field study and presentation on communicating the complexity of sustainability. My Strategic Communication class was both inspired by and learned a lot from meeting you.”

Nya Oxfelet Jensen
DIS Assistant Program Director

DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia

November 2018

Leads U.S student field study & presentation on communicating the complexity of sustainability
Delivers lecture to U.S students on international reporting of complex issues

Georgia State University, SEJC conference

January 2015

Makes a speech about national and international reporting; advises students on anchoring

Georgia Tech University, Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

September 2014

Mentors students on their presentations about Russian energy policy impact on Europe

Georgia Tech University, Cowan-Turner Center for Servant Leadership

March 2014

Leads seminar on the Ukraine war

February 2013

Gives talk explaining the EU dilemma after Hezbollah attack on Israeli tourists

November 2012

Delivers lecture on the Arab Spring

Sofia University, Department of Journalism

May 2014

Conducts seminar on writing, anchoring & producing with a focus on CNN ethical standards

New University, Bulgaria, Department of Journalism

August 2013 and August 2010

Lectures about on air presentation, writing and CNN ethical standards

Georgia College & State University, Mass Communications Department, Milledgeville GA

October 2012

Gives a lecture on live newscast production for Video Theory & Practice class

Leads workshop for broadcast class anchors, reporters and writers evaluating their work

Georgia State University, Department of Political Science

April 2014- August 2015

Consults department staff and students on communications as Student Advisory Board member

Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, Santiago, Chile

June, 2009

Gives a talk about writing, reporting, on-air presentation and CNN ethical practices

Anhembi Morumbi University, Sao Paulo, Brazil

March 2008

Delivers a lecture on modern media ethics and professional challenges before 400 students

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA

September 2003

Conducts workshop on writing, producing and on camera presentation

Brenau University, Gainesville, GA

March 2000

Gives speech on anchoring, reporting and professional path from tiny Bulgaria to CNN in Atlanta