

BENJAMIN W. CRAMER, PHD

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Benjamin W. Cramer currently works as a post-doctoral fellow with the Institute for Information Policy and serves as managing editor for the *Journal of Information Policy*. He is also an instructor in the Department of Telecommunications at Pennsylvania State University, teaching courses in media industries and telecommunications regulation.

In 2009-2010 he worked at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary as Visiting Professor of Telecommunications and Public Policy, teaching graduate and law students. He has also taught a senior-level mass communications law course and has worked as a researcher for a variety of educators and foundations devoted to knowledge in media law, telecommunications, and political communications. Cramer currently has three law journal publications, one academic press book, and eleven conference presentations. He received a doctorate from the College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University in April 2009.

Cramer's research and teaching in mass communications and public policy focus primarily on the human rights and public interest implications of media law and telecommunications policy. He has also presented research in intellectual property law, political communications, media literacy, comparative international public policy, and environmental law. He also has nearly a decade of experience as a curriculum designer and classroom instructor in the information technology field, and is the author/editor of two general interest books on outdoor recreation.

OBJECTIVE

To obtain an Assistant Professor position in mass communications, telecommunications policy, media law, or public policy.

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EDUCATIONAL HISTORY

Doctor of Philosophy, Mass Communications

Pennsylvania State University, College of Communications, 2009

Teaching and Research Focus: Media law, telecommunications policy, political communications, media literacy

Dissertation Title: *Freedom of Environmental Information in America*

Master of Arts, Media Studies

Pennsylvania State University, College of Communications, 2004

Research Focus: Political economy of communications, political communications, media literacy

Thesis Title: *Dick Cheney's Energy Task Force: The Political Economy of Mainstream Media Coverage*

Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration

Syracuse University, School of Management, 1993

Major Focus: Marketing

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Present (until July 2012)

Post-Doctoral Fellow, Institute for Information Policy, Pennsylvania State University.

- Managing editor of *Journal of Information Policy*. Responsibilities include design and operation of the website for the online journal, all technical and managerial editing, and coordination of the peer review process.
- Conference promotion and coordination.

Instructor, Department of Telecommunications, Pennsylvania State University.

- Courses taught: Media Industries (a writing-intensive course), Telecommunications Regulation, Video Games & Interactive Media, Introduction to the Politics of the Environment (tentative).
- Students taught: Undergraduates in 100-, 300-, and 400-level courses.

Spring 2010

Research Associate, Center for Media and Communications Studies, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary).

- Part time, remote research work in comparative telecommunications policy (Europe/US).
- United States correspondent for multi-country study on the independence of telecommunications regulators for the enforcement of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD) by the European Union.

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- Project Affiliations: University of Hamburg, Hans Bredow Institut (Germany); Central European University (Hungary).

Fall 2009

Visiting Professor of Telecommunications and Public Policy, Department of Public Policy, Central European University (Budapest, Hungary).

- Courses taught: Fundamentals of Media and Telecommunications Policy; Global Broadcasting and Telecommunications Law (both courses featured an international and comparative focus).
- Students taught: primarily MA students, plus some PhD and Law students.
- Frequent guest lecturer at affiliated institutions.
- Masters thesis advisement and evaluation.
- Manager of curriculum for Media, Information, and Communications Policy Stream (a track within a Public Policy MA major).
- Research Associate, Center for Media and Communication Studies.
- Association with the Open Society Archives.

2006-2009

Doctoral Candidate and Teaching Assistant in media law and telecommunications policy, Pennsylvania State University.

- Course taught: Mass Communications Law, 400-level, 2008-2009.
- Research Assistant, Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment.
- Member of the student advisory board for the Don Davis Program in Ethical Leadership and the College of Communications Committee on Academic Integrity.
- Frequent guest lecturer in undergraduate courses. Occasional lecturer and workshop facilitator on technical or academic matters for other graduate students.
- Two second-place awards for best research paper in college-wide graduate student competitions. Two research papers on telecommunications and the environment cited by Pennsylvania wildlife activists while addressing state and local lawmakers.
- Technical editor for four issues of the AEJMC divisional newsletter *Media Law Notes*.

2004-2005

Senior academic computing lab consultant and crew manager at Penn State University.

1995-2003

Corporate information technology consultant, technical writer and editor, curriculum developer, classroom instructor, database manager, team leader, and training development manager for implementations of complex business/industrial software applications. Includes approximately 4.5 years at IBM.

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MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications (Law & Policy Division)
International Communications Association
Telecommunications Policy Research Conference
Union for Democratic Communications

PUBLICATIONS

Academic Press Books:

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Freedom of Environmental Information*. LFB Scholarly Publishing LLC, El Paso, TX, 2011.

Academic Journals:

Cramer, Benjamin W. "The Nation's Broadband Success Story": *The Secrecy of FCC Broadband Infrastructure Statistics*. HASTINGS COMMUNICATIONS & ENTERTAINMENT LAW JOURNAL (COMM/ENT) vol. 31, pp. 339-368 (2009).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Human Right to Information, the Environment, and Information about the Environment: From the Universal Declaration to the Aarhus Convention*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 14, pp. 73-103 (2009; peer-reviewed).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Power of Secrecy and the Secrecy of Power: FACA and the National Energy Policy Development Group*. COMMUNICATION LAW & POLICY vol. 13, pp. 183-230 (2008; peer reviewed).

Research Currently Under Development:

A mid-term assessment of Obama administration performance in transparency and information policy (with Martin E. Halstuk and Michael D. Todd, to be published in a law review journal late 2011 or early 2012); research into the environmental, energy, and land-use ramifications of telecommunications innovation and infrastructure development (solo; including a manuscript under review at *Telematics & Informatics* as of May 2011); research into the human rights implications of transnational telecommunications policy (solo); an analysis of telecommunications regulatory standards and jurisdictional issues for cross-border transmission of television signals between the US and Cuba (with John Spicer Nichols).

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General Interest Books:

Cramer, Ben. *Guide to the Allegheny Front Trail* (a guide for Pennsylvania hiking enthusiasts), self-published, 2009.

Cramer, Ben. *Pennsylvania Hiking Trails, 13th Edition*, Stackpole Books, 2008 (editor and partial author).

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Cramer, Benjamin W. *An Extinction of Transparency: The Opaque Endangered Species List*, poster presentation at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, St. Louis, MO, August 2011.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Unasked Questions and Unquestioned Answers: The Perils of Assuming Diversity in Modern Telecommunications Policy*, presented at the invitational workshop DIGITAL DIVERSITY: SERVING THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE AGE OF BROADBAND, Fordham University, New York, NY, May 2011.

Cramer, Benjamin W., Michael D. Todd & Martin E. Halstuk. *Clearing Up the FOIA Transparency Question: How Congress Can Break the Coming Deadlock Between President Obama and the Supreme Court*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Boston, MA, August 2009 (presentation by Michael D. Todd).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *"The Nation's Broadband Success Story": The Secrecy of FCC Broadband Infrastructure Statistics*, presented at the Telecommunications Policy Research Conference, Arlington, VA, September 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Human Right to Information, the Environment, and Information about the Environment: From the Universal Declaration to the Aarhus Convention*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Chicago, IL, August 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Unplanned Obsolescence: American Participation in Redundant Multilateral Copyright Agreements*, presented at the International Communications Association annual conference, Montreal, Canada, May 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Commun(ica)ting with Nature: The FCC and Federal Environmental Regulations*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications southeast colloquium, Auburn, AL, March 2008.

Cramer, Benjamin W. *Fine-Feathered Adversaries: The FCC and Avian Mortality at Communications Towers*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications mid-winter conference, Pittsburgh, PA, February 2008.

Worawongs, Worapron T., Kathleen M. Kuehn & Benjamin W. Cramer. *Internet Dependency and Student Behavior in Wired Classrooms*, presented at the National Communications Association conference, Chicago, IL, November 2007 (by Kathleen M. Kuehn); and the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass

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Communications mid-winter conference, Reno, NV, February 2007 (presentation by Worapron T. Worawongs).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *University Computer Networks and the Taming of Napster: A Political Economy Analysis*, presented at the Union for Democratic Communications conference, Vancouver, Canada, October 2007 (presentation by Dr. Amit Schejter).

Cramer, Benjamin W. *The Power of Secrecy and the Secrecy of Power: FACA and the National Energy Policy Development Group*, presented at the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications annual conference, Washington, DC, August 2007.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Robert M. Frieden

Professor, Pioneers Chair in Telecommunications, College of Communications,
Pennsylvania State University

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