

# BENJAMIN W. CRAMER, PHD

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

In fall 2009 Benjamin W. Cramer is working at Central European University in Budapest, Hungary as Visiting Professor of Telecommunications and Public Policy. He received a doctorate degree from the College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University in April 2009. He has taught the 400-level Mass Communications Law course at Penn State and has worked as a researcher for a variety of educators and foundations devoted to research in media law, telecommunications, and political communications. Cramer currently has three peer-reviewed law journal publications, two more in production (to be published by late 2009), and nine conference presentations.

Cramer's research in mass communications and public policy focuses on traditional media law, government transparency, telecommunications policy, intellectual property, and the political economy of communications; with an outside interest in 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 or public policy, with a start date of January 2010.

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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

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## PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

### 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 feature an international focus, and comparative coverage of policy in the European Union and the United States. Student advising and research with the affiliated Center for Media and Communication Studies.

### 2006-2009

Graduate student and teaching assistant in media law and telecommunications policy, Penn State University, including research for the Pennsylvania Center for the First Amendment. Instructor for 400-level course in Mass Media Law, Fall 2008 and Spring 2009. 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 disciplinary 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.

### 1989-1995

Crew manager, event manager, and equipment operator for campus events at Syracuse University.

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## MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communications (Law & Policy Division; student member)

International Communications Association (student member)

Telecommunications Policy Research Conference (student member)

Union for Democratic Communications (student member)

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed 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).

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).

### Journal Articles Currently Under Development:

A retrospective analysis of developments in federal government transparency since a landmark 1989 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court (with Martin E. Halstuk and Michael D. Todd); 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).

### General Interest:

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).

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## REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

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## **PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES**

(Full contact information available upon request)

### **Robert M. Frieden**

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

(814)863-7996

### **Geoffrey R. Scott**

Professor, Dickinson School of Law, Pennsylvania State University

(814)863-6878

### **Clay Calvert**

Professor, Eminent Scholar in Mass Communication, University of Florida

### **Matt Jackson**

Associate Professor, Head of the Department of Telecommunications, College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University

(814)863-6419

### **Martin E. Halstuk**

Associate Professor, College of Communications, Pennsylvania State University

(814)863-7990