

Cirien Saadeh is a journalist, educator, and doctoral student who works at the intersections of journalism, social movements, and sustainability. Saadeh is a justice-focused and innovative entrepreneur with a demonstrated record in community-oriented project management and community education programming and implementation. She is adept at issue writing and analysis, curriculum development, relationship-building, power analysis, and strategic project organizing.

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## **ACADEMIC HISTORY**

Ph.D in Sustainability Education, Prescott College	2015-2019
Focus: Developing “journalism of color,” a pedagogical theory and community-based journalism curriculum which prioritizes developing new institutions and models for resilient community-based, community-owned journalism in communities of color and other marginalized communities	
M.A. in Humanities (Justice, Activism, and Solidarity)	2013-2015
Focus: Social movement development and community-based food systems transformation	
St. Catherine University B.A in Political Science and Theology	2008-2012
College of St. Catherine A.A. in Liberal Arts	2005-2007
Focus: Paraprofessional Education	

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## **ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS**

Saadeh, Cirien. *Integrating Food Access, Food Security, Food Justice, and Food Sovereignty in Order to Develop an Integral Food Systems Theory of Change*. Graduate Thesis. Prescott College, 2015.

Corridors to Freedom, Action Research to Emancipation: Key Findings  
“Key Findings” written by Cirien Saadeh, with permission from report author Lizeth Marroquin (Research Assistant, University of Minnesota). Key findings published and presented October 2013.

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## **PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP AND WRITING**

**Cirien Saadeh**

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The UpTake

January 2017-June 2018

Project Lead

- Lead legislative journalist and project organizer focused on developing more equity and community-centered coverage of the Minnesota State Legislature
- Leading fundraising research including grant proposal preparation and community-based crowdfunding campaigns
- Developing and implementing project strategic organizing plan and process analysis
- Designing and executing journalism of color curriculum for a year-long community cohort training intersecting legislative journalism and community organizing

Freelance Journalist

January 2016 - Current

- Published in the Twin Cities Daily Planet, The UpTake, The Nation, OkayAfrica, Feet in Two Worlds, the Associated Press, Quill (the official magazine of the Society of Professional Journalists), and other outlets across Minnesota and the nation
- Pitches and publishes long-form journalism connecting policy and community organizing around food systems, economic development, policy creation, and affordable housing
- Completes short-form political and/or breaking news journalism
- Reports live out of press conferences, meetings, rallies, and other events.
- Social media and digital editor

Journal of Sustainability Education

September 2015 - May 2019

Assistant Editor

- Shepherds and edits potential academic articles, media reviews, and research abstracts
- Edits, develops, and finalizes completed journal including most recent edition "Issue 11: Place, Learning, and Resilience" and an upcoming issue on regenerative agriculture
- Developing a production manual for assistant editors and guest editors
- Supports the Editor-in-Chief in organizational management and journal production as needed

Northland Sustainable Solutions

September 2016 - December 2016

Communications Assistant

- Developed & implemented organization's communications strategy, in terms of both long-term strategic planning and short-term event planning
- Wrote & edited press releases, community updates, website content, and promotional materials
- Trained board members and staff to use organization's website and social media

Office of Councilmember Christian Torkelson, Little Canada 2015  
September 2014-December 2015

Policy Consultant and Writer

- Consulted on community development, outreach, and organizing; social media policy; and racial and social justice equity

- Constructed written policy recommendations used by Councilmember Christian Torkelson as candidate and councilmember

MN Latino Vote  
Communications Assistant

September 2014 - November 2014

- Developed website content in multiple language informing voters of pertinent issues and election day rules
- Conducted outreach to multiple Latino communities through a targeted multi-platform social media strategy
- Developed a short term multi-modal communications strategy in order to guide the campaign's direction and success

La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles  
Media & Communications Coordinator

September 2013 - August 2015

- Developed and implemented organizational digital strategy, including community-wide trainings
- Published over 100 press releases and blogs, as well as daily updates on social media
- Developed training materials on messaging and narrative development presented to organizational leaders

Twin Cities Media Alliance  
Board Member-At-Large, Freelance Journalist

January 2014 - December 2014

- Developed and implemented intern and volunteer journalism trainings with Editor-in-Chief and Program Manager
- Co-led the development, implementation, and evaluation of the Fall Media Forum, the Twin Cities Media Alliance largest annual event
- Reported on over two dozen news stories related to food justice, government policy-making, community-based social movements, and police brutality in the form of full-length text and multimedia stories, news briefs, and blogs

E-Democracy  
Communications & Outreach Assistant

January 2013 - December 2013

- Developed, wrote and published six newsletters entitled "Stories from the Sidewalk," press releases, blog posts, and digital inclusion campaign research and updates
- Developed training materials on digital storytelling and narrative development for outreach organizers
- Conducted organizational-wide strategic planning and implementation in communications and marketing

The UpTake  
Community Manager

January 2010 - May 2011

- Developed and implemented intern and volunteer training including the creation of training manuals and ongoing mentorships for organizational interns

- Completed approximately 75 multimedia news stories, which received statewide and national attention, related to legislative policy, union organizing, and political elections
  - Shot news footage used in the documentary “How Love Won-The Fight for Marriage Equality in Minnesota,” released in September 2015.
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## **TEACHING AND GRADUATE MENTORING**

Prescott College

January 2015 - December 2015

Assistant Teacher, Graduate Mentor, and Guest Lecturer

- Social Justice & Human Rights
  - Prepared and taught lessons on narrative development, community power, logistics of community organizing, and community journalism
- Introduction to Journalism
  - Assisted lead instructor with course development and student mentorship
  - Taught lessons related to independent journalism, multimedia reporting, and basic journalism principles
  - Edited and graded student assignments and maintained the Raven Review, the campus-wide news site
- Identity, Power, and Privilege
  - Assisted lead instructor with course development and student mentorship
  - Taught lessons related to social movement development
- Community Engagement, Development, and Organizing    January 2015-February 2015
  - Assisted lead instructor with course development and student mentorship
  - Taught lessons related to social movement design, narrative-development, and successfully completing graduate thesis papers
- Other courses developed include: Introduction to Journalism of Color and Advanced Journalism of Color; Practicing Anti-Oppressive Media; Storytelling for Social Justice/Social Change; and Sustainability Reporting

## **TRAININGS AND WORKSHOPS**

- Workshops/Series: Journalism of Color: Integrating Journalism and Community Organizing (August 2017-May 2018)
- Series: Journalism of Color & Anti-Oppressive Media
- Workshops: Introducing Anti-Oppressive Media
- Workshops: Introductory Reporting for Youth

- Series: Embedded Journalism for Social Justice Reporting
- Series: Community-Based Journalism
- Series: Food Systems Transformation and Community Organizing
- Series: Storytelling for Community Organizing
- Workshops: Introducing Independent Journalism
- Workshops: Introducing Multimedia Journalism
- Workshops: One-to-One's and Building Power
- Workshops: Issue-Based Narrative Development

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**

- Society of Professional Journalists Remote  
Freelance Community Resource Coordinator
- Transformative Arts Productions Tempe, AZ  
Co-Founder and Managing Director
- Organizing Apprenticeship Project Minneapolis, MN  
Graduate Apprentice

**SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES**

Journalism & Community Organizing	Research	Technical
Understands applicable laws and legislation	Development, implementation, and evaluation	Website Developer
Strategic Communication Planning	Community outreach	Develops and writes digital content for social media & websites
Ability to connect legislation and other policies to community issues, including solution-driven discussions, and issues of integrated sustainability	Project management and assessment	Expertise in various social media forms as used in multimedia journalism, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr, Periscope, Youtube, and Livestream
Copy-editing	Digital and technical literacy	
Long-form analysis	Grant researcher and writer	

Blogging and social media as used in multimedia journalism	Research dissemination particularly through community channels	
Breaking news coverage		
Script writing for radio		
News project production		

**REFERENCES**

Ned Moore	Development Director, La Asamblea de Derechos Civiles  Program Manager, Minnesota Center for Neighborhood Organizing	612-600-4581, ned@asamblea-mn.org
Ernesto Todd Mireles	Academic Advisor/Mentor (Graduate & Doctoral Programs)  Professor in the Prescott College Social Justice & Human Rights Department	517-881-6505, ernesto.mireles@prescott.edu
Michael McIntee	Executive Producer, The UpTake	651-261-2272, mike.mcintee@theuptake.org