

COLESON SMITH

c: (616) 295-3226 | e: colesondsmith@gmail.com | Brooklyn, NY

PROFILE

Brooklyn-based writer and freelance copy editor with experience in archival research, interviewing, and investigations.

EDUCATION

The New School | New York, NY

Master of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction

York University | Toronto, ON

Master of Arts in English Literature

Calvin University | Grand Rapids, MI

Bachelor of Arts in English Literature

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy

EXPERIENCE

Reaktion Books | London, UK

Freelance Copy Editor | April 2026-Present

Other Press | New York, NY

Freelance Copy Editor | October 2025-Present

Morehouse Publishing | New York, NY

Freelance Proofreader | July 2025-present

Semiotext(e) | Los Angeles, CA

Freelance Proofreader/Copy Editor | July 2025-present

Penguin Random House | New York, NY

Freelance Proofreader/Copy Editor | February 2025-present

Le Petite Monstre | Brooklyn, NY

Barista | October 2024-February 2025

Civilian Complaint Review Board | New York, NY

Level III Investigator - Racial Profiling and Biased-Based Policing Unit | October 2023-September 2024

Level II Investigator | October 2022-October 2023

Level I Investigator | October 2021-September 2022

- Conduct interviews with civilians and members of service.
- Request and analyze police documents, court records, and video footage.
- Synthesize evidence in case closing reports.

Citizen | New York, NY

Central Analyst | February 2020-October 2021

- Analyzed police-scanner audio and converted select information into live incident reports.
- Wrote and edited crime reports for the app's news team.
- Collaborated and edited with members of the news team on breaking stories.
- Tracked, mapped, and drafted pieces on emerging crime trends across the U.S.

Eleva Coffee | Brooklyn, NY

Barista | 2019-2020

Squibb Coffee & Wine Bar | Grand Rapids, MI

Barista | 2018-2019

Calvin University *Chimes* | Grand Rapids, MI

Politics and Culture Reporter | 2015-2016

- Produced features and articles on West Michigan cultural and political events.
- Wrote and developed op-ed pieces pertaining to *Chimes*' political and cultural content.

TRAININGS & CERTIFICATIONS

Columbia University Basic Mediation Skills Training | 2024

- Completed 27-hour training course on mediation.

Mental Health First Aid USA Certification | September 2023

- Completed 8-hour course on identifying and assisting people experiencing mental health problems such as depression, anxiety disorders, psychosis, and substance abuse disorders.

Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview (FETI) Training | November 2022

- Completed 16-hour training course on the science and practice-based FETI interviewing methodology.

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

The New School | Bette Howland Prize Winner (2026)

The New School | Student Research Award (2025)

The New School | NSSR Travel and Research Award (2025)

The New School | Schools of Public Engagement Scholarship (2024)

York University | York Graduate Fellowship (2017)

York University | York Graduate Scholarship (2017)

Calvin University Off-Campus Programs | The Art of Traveling Well Award (2016)

Calvin University English Department | Henry and Mildred Zylstra Scholarship (2015)

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

LIT Magazine | New York, NY

Non-fiction reader | September 2024-October 2025

- Read non-fiction submissions and provide feedback during weekly meetings.

Kings County Tennis League | Brooklyn, NY

On-site volunteer | 2022, 2024

- Facilitated lessons, exercises, games, and matches with enrolled youth.

Out of the Cold | Toronto, ON

Shelter Attendant | 2018

- Worked as a dining room attendant, hospitality provider, and food preparer at the organization's midtown location.