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Rutgers University-Newark School of Public Affairs and Administration (SPAA)

in collaboration with:



The Center for Media and Peace Initiatives

and

The Society of Professional Journalists (NJ Chapter)

presents



The 3rd Annual Conference on Media & Democratic Governance

“Seeing Through the Spin: Sorting Fact from Fiction in Public Information”

Friday, April 11, 2014

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

**The School of Public Affairs and Administration,
Rutgers University-Newark**

Center for Urban and Public Service, 111 Washington Street, Newark, NJ

9:00 to 9:30: Registration and Networking.

9:30 to 9:40: Welcome: Marc Holzer, Dean, Rutgers SPAA; signing of Memorandum of Understanding between SPAA and the Center for Media and Peace Initiatives.

9:40 to 11:00: **PANEL 1: BRIDGEGATE AND OPEN RECORDS**

How were legislators and journalists able to obtain the emails that proved the lanes to the George Washington Bridge had not, in fact, been closed because of a traffic study? This session will examine the state open records law from the perspectives of a journalist who has been covering Bridgegate, a law professor who is a leading expert in open records laws, an advocate, and an academic.

- John Reitmeyer, Trenton correspondent for *The Record*.
- Thomas MacLeod, formerly New Jersey Chapter, American Civil Liberties Union.
- Bernard Bell, professor, Rutgers Law School.
- Felix Deat, doctoral candidate, SPAA; scholar of governmental communications.
- Michael Gershowitz, assistant professor of public administration, Rutgers School of Public Affairs and Administration, moderator.

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11:00 to 12:20: PANEL 2: COVERING PUBLIC AFFAIRS IN NEW JERSEY:
SORTING FACT FROM SPIN

What additional tools can journalists, citizens, academics and government officials use to cut through spin? A trio of working journalists and a technology expert offer their take on everything from the continued need for old-fashioned shoe leather reporting to the importance of public access to government data in the digital age.

- Jane Primerano, president, New Jersey Chapter, Society of Professional Journalists.
- Debbie Galant, director, New Jersey News Commons, Montclair State University.
- Seth Wainer, senior technology policy advisor, City of Newark, NJ.
- Joe Malinconico, award-winning reporter, *The Paterson Press*.
- Miriam Ascarelli, journalism lecturer, New Jersey Institute of Technology, moderator.

12:20 to 1:20: Featured Speaker and Luncheon. (*Lunch for sale or bring your own*)

SPEAKER: RICHARD BRODSKY, SENIOR FELLOW AT THE WAGNER SCHOOL OF PUBLIC SERVICE AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY; FORMER CHAIR OF THE NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON AUTHORITIES AND COMMISSIONS.
“THE PORT AUTHORITY: WILL IT SURVIVE? SHOULD IT SURVIVE?”

1:30 to 2:50: PANEL 3: SORTING FACT FROM SPIN AROUND THE WORLD

How do diaspora journalists influence the conversation both in their home countries and in the United States? Four journalists from different parts of the world will offer insights into the effects of their work here and around the world.

- Sunil Adam, editor, *Indian Times*.
- Alex Ostashko, Ukrainian journalist.
- Rudolf Okonkwo, Nigerian journalist.
- Amelia Moore, host/producer, UBC TV.
- Uchenna Ekwo, president, Center for Media and Peace Initiatives, moderator.

2:50 to 3:05: Panel wrap-up discussion.

3:05 to 4:00: Featured speaker.

SPEAKER: YURIY SERGEYEV, UKRAINIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
“HOW THE WORLD MEDIA PORTRAYS UKRAINE”

4:00 to 4:30: Reception.

4:30: Adjournment.