

## OMAR WASOW

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

56 Howard Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
Fax: 646.349.3950  
Email: owasow [at] fas dot harvard dot edu  
Web: <http://www.omarwasow.com>

### EDUCATION:

- 9/05-Present **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA.  
Ph.D. African and African American Studies. Degree expected in May, 2010.  
M.A. Statistics. Degree expected in May, 2009.  
M.A. Government. Degree expected in May, 2008.  
Coursework includes Economics of Crime, Quantitative Methods for Political Science and Advanced Quantitative Research Methodology. Provisional dissertation on lawlessness and the state. GPA: 3.8.
- 6/08 **Santa Fe Institute**, Santa Fe, NM.  
Selected for competitive Complex Systems Summer School, an intensive introduction to complex behavior in mathematical, physical, living, and social systems.
- 9/88-6/92 **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA.  
B.A. in Race and Ethnic Relations, an independently designed major with coursework in political science and African American studies. Completed honors thesis under direction of Prof. Paul Sniderman. Other coursework included calculus, computers science, law and economics. Selected for competitive Stanford-in-Washington program. GPA: 3.5.
- 9/85-6/88 **Stuyvesant High School**, New York, NY. Graduated with honors.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Political economy of education and crime.

### AWARDS:

- 2008-10 **Aspen Institute**, Henry Crown Fellowship.  
2007-10 **National Science Foundation**, Graduate Research Fellowship.  
2007-08 **Institute for Humane Studies**, Humane Studies Fellowship.  
2005-09 **Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**, Graduate Fellowship.  
2005-07 **Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**, Summer Research Grant.  
2004 **National Association of Minority Media Executives**, Catalyst Award: New Media.  
1997-99 **Rockefeller Foundation**, Next Generation Leadership Fellow.

### SELECTED PRESENTATIONS:

- 4/19/08 **Conference on Order, Conflict and Violence**, Yale University, New Haven, CT.  
Presentation of paper: "How Does Police Response Affect Riot Severity?"

- 3/8/08 **Civil Conflict Workshop**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.  
Presentation of paper: "Investigating the Consequences of Initial Police Response to U.S. Urban Riots"
- 3/6/08 **Identity Formation in the African Diaspora**, Columbia University, New York, NY.  
Presentation as part of panel: "African American Identity Formation Online"
- 10/27/07 **American Association of School Librarians**, Reno, NV.  
Keynote speech: "How Can Libraries Can Thrive in the Age of Google?"
- 4/18/07 **University of Missouri-Kansas City**, Kansas City, MO.  
Keynote speech: Robert F. Kennedy Symposium, "Digital Divide or Literacy Divide?"
- 2/23/07 **Harvard Graduate School of Education Conference**, Cambridge, MA.  
Presentation of original research: "Did Crack Cocaine Increase Dropouts?"
- 2/10/07 **Tavis Smiley Presents: State of the Black Union**, Hampton University, VA.  
Panel discussion broadcast on C-SPAN.
- 10/19/06 **Education Research Bureau**, New York, NY.  
Keynote speech: "Schools 2.0?: How Will Technology Transform Education?"
- 4/20/05 **Museum of Modern Art**, New York, NY.  
Speech: "Participatory Media."
- 4/4/05 **USC Annenberg School**, Laguna, CA.  
Keynote speech: "Non-Elephantine Zoology: Everything Converges to Community."
- 10/18/04 **Smithsonian Institute**, Washington DC.  
Speech: "The Diversity Gap: How Demographic and Technological Change Are Creating the New Generation Gap."
- 9/10/04 **Brown University Watson Institute**, Providence, RI.  
Panel discussant: "The Power and Pathology of Networks."
- 1/11/04 **American Library Association**, San Diego, CA.  
Keynote speech: "Child Internet Protection Act and Online Community."
- 10/24/03 **Tri-Caucus Retreat**, Asian-American, Black and Hispanic Congressional Caucuses' Annual Gathering, San Juan, PR.  
Keynote speech: "How Multicultural Youth Are Reshaping America."

## **WORK EXPERIENCE:**

- 3/99-8/05 **Executive Director**, BlackPlanet.com, Community Connect Inc., New York, NY.  
Oversaw the launch, strategy, hiring, sales, marketing and content of the leading African American web site. Guided site to profitability and an active user base of four million users a month. Worked closely with CEO to raise \$22 million.
- 7/96-Present **Technology Analyst**, MSNBC, Secaucus, NJ; NBC, NPR, PRI, New York, NY.  
On-air commentator on current events and technology issues. Have appeared regularly on NBC's Today Show, CNN, Oprah and public radio.
- 9/93-2/99 **President and Founder**, New York Online, Diaspora inc., Brooklyn, NY.  
Launched innovative online service focused on creating a vibrant, intellectual, multicultural community. Developed web sites and strategies for corporate clients including *The New Yorker*, *Consumer Reports*, *Vibe*, *Latina* and *Essence* magazines.

- 8/92-8/93      **Assistant Director**, Strictly Business, Citizens Committee for NYC, New York, NY.  
Managed staff of eight, budget of \$400,000, and student population of 100 in youth-entrepreneurship training and education program.
- 9/90-12/90      **Intern**, Congressman William Gray III, House of Rep. Majority Whip, DC.  
Assisted in drafting reports, articles and policy papers.
- 9/87-6/88      **President**, Stuyvesant Student Union, Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY.  
Oversaw apportioning of \$80,000 Student Union budget. Managed student staff of 25.

#### **TEACHING:**

- 9/92-6/93      **Teacher**, Strictly Business Job Training Program, New York, NY.  
Taught year-long “Youth Entrepreneurship” curriculum.
- 1/92-3/92      **Co-Teacher**, Stanford University, Stanford, CA.  
Taught semester-long “Black-Jewish Relations,” course as part of Student Workshops on Political and Social Issues.

#### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- 12/3/99      **FeedMag.com**, Business Column, “Digital Detritus: The Erosion of Digital Media.”
- 6/18/99      **FeedMag.com**, Business Column, “NASDAQ 2.0: How the Net is Remaking Markets.”
- 6/14/98      *USAToday*, Op-Ed Page, “Geek shortage? Naw, Just Tight Market.”
- 2/24/98      *USAToday*, Op-Ed Page, “Nothing But Net: the Future of Telecom Regulation.”
- 7/1/97      **MSNBC.com**, Columnists, “Myth of the Million Man March.”
- 3/12/96      **MSNBC.com**, Columnists, “The Cab Gap: the Misguided Black Middle Class.”

#### **SELECTED PROFILES:**

- 4/04      *Stanford Alumni Magazine*, “BlackPlanet’s Universe,” by Cate T. Corcoran.
- 11/02      *The New York Times*, “Entrepreneur Takes Black-Oriented Site Out of Red,” by Linda Richardson.
- 5/01      *The New York Times*, “Silicon Alley’s Philosopher-Prince,” by Lynnley Browning.

#### **AFFILIATIONS:**

- 3/03-Present      **Deloitte.**, New York, NY.  
Serve on Diversity Advisory Board.
- 1/04-Present      **Stanford School of Education**, Stanford, CA.  
Serve on Advisory Board.
- 6/00-Present      **Brooklyn Excelsior Charter School**, Brooklyn, NY.  
Co-founded, former board President and serve currently on board of directors.

#### **SKILLS & NON-PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:**

Proficient in R statistical programming environment and LATEX.  
Competitor in marathons, triathlons and adventure races.  
Limited proficiency in Spanish.