

Final report

Columbia University Summer Investigative Reporting Course

New York 8.7.-26.7. 2019

I applied for The Summer Investigative Course, because I wanted to learn, how investigative journalism is done at the highest level in the United States and bring new knowledge to Finland too.

I had worked 20 years and thought that to participate The Summer Investigative Course would be the proper way to learn effectively new methods and train my skills in investigative reporting.

I thought also that data journalism and advanced investigative journalism reporting techniques would be very useful combination in my work as a journalist.

The role of investigative journalism has been quite weak in Finnish business journalism and I wished that my participation in this course could partly strengthen the role.

Almost all my wishes came true, because the teaching was great. We spend great three weeks listening professionals. I learnt a lot. The most important point was that investigative journalism is a mindset. It is not only box of tools but also a specific way to think. The way of thinking can be summarized in three questions: What's wrong, who or what is responsible and what needs to change.

We were asked to t develop an investigative project beforehand and continue developing project the Summer Investigative Reporting Course. My project was based on idea that best lobbyist get most of the public money in European Union and public does not know, that this phenomenon is very wide. I did not have time to finish my project but is still running.

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