

Molly Peterson

Los Angeles-based independent journalist ★ molly.peterson@me.com

Current employment

SCIENCE REPORTER, KQED PUBLIC MEDIA, LOS ANGELES/SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Recent work includes “[Older and Overlooked](#),” a co-investigation with CalMatters, “[Workplace Heat](#),” and “[Living with Wildfire: California Reimagined](#).”

Experience

FREELANCE REPORTER, EDITOR AND PRODUCER

LOS ANGELES, CA; ALSO SAN FRANCISCO, NEW ORLEANS, WASHINGTON SINCE 2001
Covering climate change, water policy, and environmental issues for local stations in major cities; also filing for NPR, BBC/PRI’s *The World*, and *Marketplace*. Ongoing community-based [investigatory project](#) on urban heat using sensors to measure heat and humidity (KQED, KCRW, NPR’s CodeSwitch). Editing and reporting at WWNO on flood insurance, risk and recovery; produced/hosted weekly All Things New Orleans, 2016-7. Special focus on post-Katrina reconstruction, disaster recovery and response in Louisiana, 2005-07. Reporting in DRC and Rwanda on International Women’s Media Foundation trip.

COMMUNITY REPORTER, [PACTIO.US](#)

LOS ANGELES, CA 2018-2019

On an experimental platform incubated with JSK fellows, established a “pact” with members to deliver local enterprise reporting and specific answers to community-based journalism questions.

REPORTER & COMMUNITY PRODUCER, [I SEE CHANGE](#)

LOS ANGELES, CA 2015-2017

Started up and nurtured digital platforms based on crowdsourced climate observations for NASA-funded venture. Reported out regular “deep dives” into observers’ questions, connecting public and local trends to scientific research. Leveraged social media to grow observer base & create dialogue with audience. Public talks and outreach; engagement with climate scientists.

ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, [SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PUBLIC RADIO](#)

LOS ANGELES, CA 2008-2015

Broke news and enterprised award-winning stories, using records requests and data in reporting. Heard on radio and read on web daily: reported quick turnaround stories and long-term features; produced live field reports. Investigations: post-Katrina Army Corps of Engineers contracting (2008-09) and California oversight of lead-polluting businesses in the Los Angeles Basin (2015). Major project on drought & water supplies (2014-15). Produced daily content for blog *Pacific Swell*.

REPORTER & CO-DIRECTOR, [FINDING SOLID GROUND](#)

NEW ORLEANS, LA 2006-2008

Created hour-long show about Louisiana’s recovery and sense of security after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Managed grant from the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities.

REPORTER, EDITOR & PRODUCER, NPR WEST [DAY TO DAY]

NEW ORLEANS, LA & LOS ANGELES, CA 2005-2007

Edited reporters, including staff and freelancers. Pitched timely and original ideas, cut interviews, mixed stories, directed special coverage. Reported for *Day to Day* from New Orleans, including on anniversary of Katrina, about government, business, education, energy, and criminal justice.

REPORTER/PRODUCER/DIRECTOR, KQED-FM [THE CALIFORNIA REPORT]

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 2002-2005

Produced nationally-distributed award-winning documentary, *A Need to Belong*, about citizenship and identity in a post 9/11 America. Covered California water policy.

PRODUCER & EDITOR, NPR [MORNING EDITION, ATC, NATIONAL DESK]

WASHINGTON, DC 1998-2002

Intern for Supreme Court Correspondent Nina Totenberg during Clinton Impeachment hearings. Worked with hosts Bob Edwards, Alex Chadwick, Melissa Block, Steve Inskeep.

Education

University of California, Hastings College of the Law J.D. 1998

- Member of the California Bar (#202404; inactive status)
- Constitutional Law Quarterly, Senior Articles Editor
- Author, *Reexamining Compelling Interests and Radical State Campaign Finance Reforms: So Goes the Nation* (Constitutional Law Quarterly, Vol. 25:3)

Georgetown University, School of Foreign Service, B.S.F.S. 1994

- Concentration: International Relations, Law & Organization, focus on Asia & Africa
- Certificate in African Studies
- Coursework in Geomorphology/Geology, Climatology/Atmosphere & Global Change

Honors/Fellowships

2019 Invited Speaker, ClimateReady San Mateo County, Redwood City, CA

2018 Visiting Scholar, UNC School of Public Health, Chapel Hill, NC

2018 University of Southern California Impact Fund

2017 CUNY Resilience Journalism Fellowship, New York, NY

2017 International Women's Media Foundation, Dem. Republic of Congo/Rwanda

2017 University of Southern California Center for Health Journalism California Fellowship

2016 Invited Speaker, State University of New York, Cortland, NY

2012 Fellowship at National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, CO

2009 McCormick Energy Solutions Fellowship, Kiplinger Program in Public Affairs Journalism, Ohio State, Columbus, OH

2008 Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute F, Woods Hole, MA

2004 Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting, Narragansett, RI

Languages

French (Moderate; used in DRC)

Chinese (Beginner; Mandarin)

Spanish (Basic; functional in Los Angeles)

Awards

SPJ Sigma Delta Chi for Excellence in Journalism

2020 Public Service in Radio Journalism, "[Living With Wildfire](#)"

Investigative Reporters & Editors (national)

2010 Finalist, Radio investigative reporting, "Pumps Under Pressure"

RTDNA [Radio Television Directors News Association] Edward R. Murrow Award

2018 Region 2, Best Investigative, "[Heat](#)"

2017 Region 9, Continuing Coverage, WWNO Flood Recovery, "[Buyouts](#)"

2012 Region 2, Best Use of Sound, "Pot Raid"

SPJ Northern California Excellence in Journalism

2019 Investigative Reporting, Heat

2019 Science, Environment & Health Reporting, Living With Wildfire

PRNDI [Public Radio News Directors Incorporated] (national)

2011 Division A, Best Use of Sound, "[Pot Raid](#)"

2009 Division A, Best Enterprise/Investigative, [Pumps Under Pressure](#)

2003 Division A, Best Series, "California Water" [reporter, "San Joaquin River"]

2002 Division A, Best Series, "Mega-Series: Citizenship in a Post 9/11 America"
[series producer; reporter]

APTRA [Associated Press Television & Radio Association] (multi-state)

2012, Best Enterprise Reporting [[Proposition 37](#)]

2009, Best Radio Investigative Reporting [Pumps Under Pressure]

RTNA [Radio Television News Association], Golden Mikes (California)

2013 Best Radio Feature News Series Reporting, Proposition 37

2011 Best Radio Feature News Series Reporting, [Owens River](#)

2009 Best Radio Individual Writing, [SB Oil Spill](#)

2009 Best Radio Investigative Reporting, Pumps Under Pressure

Los Angeles Press Club

2018 Second Place Investigative Reporting, Radio

2012 Best Use of Sound, "Pot Raid"

2012 Best News or Feature, Short Form "[Barbie Protest](#)"

2009 Journalist of the Year, Radio

2009 Best Investigative Story/Series, Radio, Pumps Under Pressure

2009 Best Online Story/Series, Pumps Under Pressure

American Women in Radio and Television

2005 Gracie Award, Justice Talking, "Working Women"

2002 NPR, Collaboration between Broadcast and New Media for Present at the Creation
[web contributor/reporter for [Animal House](#)]

Society of Environmental Journalists

2006, Outstanding Large Market Reporting, "Borderlands"

Molly Peterson

Los Angeles-based journalist * molly.peterson@me.com

Additional Selected Digital & Broadcast Work

[NPR's Code Switch](#), It's Getting (Dangerously) Hot in Herre (9/17)

[NPR](#) & [KQED](#), The Russian River Floods at Monte Rio (2/19)

[KQED](#), Here's Trump's EPA Pick Talking Climate Change. Yes, We Fact-Checked Him (2/21/19)

Ongoing: [The City Heat Project](#) (2017-2018)

[KQED](#), Like it or Not, the Water is Coming and other Sea Level Rise stories (5/29, 6/6, 6/28/18)

[KQED](#), Extreme Heat in California: An Investigation ([10/15](#), [10/17](#), [10/22](#), [10/29](#), [12/4](#), [12/9/18](#))

[The Guardian](#), What happens when you buy a house in a disaster zone – and no one told you? (9/25/18)

[KQED](#), Removal of Klamath Dams Would Be the Largest in History (10/24/16)

[PRI's The World](#), Stay or Go? Two US towns face the awful choice as #sealevels rise (8/5/16)

[PRI's The World](#), Are Californians awesome on climate change – or just stuck up? (12/1/15)

[SCPR](#), City of Industry battery recycler ordered to test for lead pollution (11/19/15)

[SCPR](#), Exide: State to begin immediate cleanup after new report of lead contamination. (8/20/15)

[SCPR](#), Lead-based Pollution From Exide May Have Reached Thousands of Homes (8/14/15)

[SCPR](#), Vernon-based Exide Technologies to Shut Down Permanently (3/12/15)

[SCPR](#), Cash for Grass: How well is it working? (7/14/14) ([Map](#)/Data)

[SCPR](#), Pumps Under Pressure: An Investigation of New Orleans Outfall Canals after Katrina (2009)

[NPR](#), Californians Consider New Ways To Share Water (10/16/15)

[On The Media](#), California's #DroughtShaming (4/10/15)

[NPR](#), In Fourth Year of Drought, New Regulations and \$1 Billion of Relief (3/22/15)

[BBC Newshour](#), California's Drought (2/19/15)

[Science Progress](#), BP In Deep Water With Scientific Integrity Advocates (6/6/12)

[SCPR](#), Scientists Study Seeps to Learn More About Climate (1/09)

[Living on Earth](#), The Engineering of Coastal Protection (6/2/06)