

Portrait of a Freelancer in Four Minutes or Less

I am a public health analyst and blogger currently working in US domestic public health, but with an active interest in international health, development, and human rights. I have worked with domestic public health projects in both federal and state public health agencies. I have served as the Communications Committee Chair for APHA's International Health Section since 2010. I manage the website, blog, and social media profiles of the IH Section. From March 2013 to April 2014, I also worked with DAWNS Digest, a daily hand-curated digest of global health, development, and humanitarian news and commentary. I have done freelance writing and copy editing on publications for Intasave Asia-Pacific, the UK DfID's Adapting to Climate Change in China Programme, and Cadence Group. From 2012 to 2013, I worked as an English teacher in South Korea in an effort to gain work experience abroad and improve my cultural communication skills. After returning to the US, I took a position as an epidemiologist in HIV/AIDS prevention while my husband finishes his master's degrees in Global Policy Studies and Asian Studies at the University of Texas. I am continuously building my skill set in order to transition into a full-time position in global health. Additionally, I am exploring the possibility of entering a doctoral degree program.

My Day Jobs (full-time paid positions):

ASPH Fellowship at NIOSH (Jul 2009-May 2010)
ALS Surveillance Specialist with McKing (Jun 2010-May 2012)
English Teacher at ECC (Jun 2012-Dec 2013)
HPP Coordinator at DSHS (Jul 2014-Aug 2014)
Epidemiologist at DSHS (Sep 2014-present)

My Freelance Work History (extracurriculars and contract assignments):

IH Section Blogger/Communications Chair (Nov 2009-present)
Netscape Public Health Blogger (Jan-Dec 2011)
Writer/copy-editor for Gwangju News (Jan 2013-present)
Co-editor for DAWNS Digest (Feb 2013-Apr 2014)*
Writer/copy-editor for UK DfID/Intasave Asia-Pacific (Aug 2013-Feb 2015)*
Writer for Cadence Group (Aug 2014-Feb 2015)*
Deputy Section Editor for *BMC Public Health* (Global Health section)
**Paid assignments*

From One Millennial to Another: Pursue opportunities boldly but shrewdly.

1. DO NOT WORK FOR FREE. Make sure someone is paying you.
2. Apply for everything (especially women)! Be open to domestic positions.
3. Request more letters of recommendation than you need (and request extra copies to read them).
4. Read and learn as much as you can (Pro-tip: set up an RSS reader).
5. Establish your voice through an online presence.

Information and Resources

Podcasts

Development Drums *by Owen Barder at the Center for Global Development*
Global Dispatches *by Mark Leon Goldberg at UN Dispatch*
Humanosphere *by Gabe Spitzer at Humanosphere*
Mission Creep *by WhyDev.org*
Terms of Reference *by Stephen Ladek at Aidpreneur*

Blogs

An Africanist Perspective: kenopalo.com (African Political Science and Economics)
Chris Blattman: chrisblattman.com (Development Economics)
Dart-Throwing Chimp: dartthrowingchimp.wordpress.com (Political Science and Conflict)
Development Book Club: developmentbookclub.wordpress.com
Humanosphere: humanosphere.org (Humanitarian News and International Development)
IH Blog: aphaih.org (Global Health and Human Rights)
The Monkey Cage: washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/ (Democracy)
UN Dispatch: undispatch.com (Foreign Policy)
Wait... What? lindaraftree.com (ICT4D)
WhyDev whydev.org (Aid and Development Industry)
Wronging Rights: wrongingrights.com (Human Rights and Sarcasm)
Me: www.jessicakeralis.com (Data, HIV, Human Rights)

Public Health Fellowship Opportunities

Public Health Fellowships and Training Programs: www.fatomei.com/public-health-scholarships.html
Idealist Fellowship list: idealistcareers.org/fellowship-programs/
CDC Training Programs: www.cdc.gov/fellowships/CareerInternships.html
ASPPH Fellowships: fellowships.aspph.org/Programs/index.cfm
APHA Fellowship: www.apha.org/professional-development/apha-internships-and-fellowships/public-health-fellowship