Abby Seiff

Award-winning journalist with more than a decade of experience writing and editing news, features, and investigations.

Awards, Grants and Certifications

Logan Nonfiction Fellowship, Winter 2019

Internews Earth Journalism Network reporting grant, 2018

Hostile Environment and First Aid Training, Rory Peck Trust, 2018

Thomson Reuters Foundation/Stanley Foundation Uncovering Security reporting grant, 2017

International Reporting Project Fellowship, 2016

Thomson Reuters Foundation, Uncovering Security Story Lab, 2016

Society of Publishers in Asia: Investigative Journalism, honorable mention 2013: Global Fund Probe;

Breaking News, honorable mention 2014: Cambodian National Elections

Education: The University of Chicago | B.A. in Anthropology, with honors, 2006

Recent employment

Asia Society - Editor-in-Chief, Leogryph magazine

New York — January 2019 – present

Hired to head a new digital publication on Asia-related issues, which has been put on hold indefinitely. In the meantime, I have been leading efforts on a one-off print edition to be released in early 2019. This includes developing content ideas, assigning stories, editing, aiding in art research, and writing my own pieces. I have also been responsible for managing stakeholders, budgeting, hiring and directing a designer, and finding a printer. With progress on the digital publication held up by external factors, I have simultaneously been helping out the communications team — assigning and editing pieces for *Asia Blog*, aiding with video and podcast production, and brainstorming new content ideas.

Devex - Asia-Pacific Editor

Phnom Penh, Cambodia — January 2017 – January 2019

Edited articles, assigned and assisted freelancers and staffers across Asia-Pacific. Led a team of three full time staff writers and recruited and managed global freelancers. I helped strengthen Devex's regional coverage, directing more thorough and in-depth reporting on the development and humanitarian challenges facing Asia — including conceptualizing and launching a large-scale special series on Chinese aid across the globe. When the Rohingya refugee crisis began, I directed ongoing and detailed coverage with an eye to ensuring the reporting explored as yet unexamined angles. I also carried out reporting and writing of my own, including an investigation into the impact of Chinese development on indigenous minorities in Cambodia, and acted as a correspondent at regional conferences such as WEF and ADB's annual meeting.

UCA News - Editor

Bangkok, Thailand — September 2014 – August 2015

Wrote features, assigned stories and assisted reporters with angles, sourcing and background for pan-Asian website focusing on religious and ethnic minorities. Edited news and features written by reporters with varying levels of written and spoken English. One of the stories I edited won the Environmental Story of the Year merit award at the Asian Environmental Journalism Awards. Traveled around the region to train local reporters and co-report stories.

Freelance reporter and editor October 2013 – present

I am a generalist reporter covering everything from politics in China to human rights in Malaysia to food security in Cambodia. My work has been featured in a range of outlets including The New York Times, Newsweek, Time, the Associated Press, Al Jazeera, Foreign Policy and many more. Most recently, I have reported on the impacts of Mekong dams on fisheries, how large-scale migration is changing Nepali society, and worsening political repression in Cambodia.

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The Phnom Penh Post – Deputy National News Editor

Phnom Penh, Cambodia—September 2012 – October 2013

Reported and wrote news, analysis and features stories on a daily basis. Assigned stories and assisted local and foreign reporters with angles, sourcing and background. Edited daily articles and larger features Sub-edited pieces written by Cambodian reporters with varying levels of written and spoken English, daily. Traveled to provinces to report larger features and news events.

The Cambodia Daily – Associate Editor

Phnom Penh, Cambodia—February 2009 - March 2010; April, 2011 - September 2012

Reported and wrote daily breaking news and features with an especial focus on international relations, politics and law (including both Cambodian courts and the Khmer Rouge Tribunal). Worked alone and in partnership with Khmer-speaking reporters. Wrote up to eight articles a week, including news analyses, op-eds and weekend magazine section essays. Sub-edited several articles daily written by Cambodian reporters. Assisted junior foreign reporters. Worked as a full time copy editor for six months and later occasionally filled in as an editor as needed.

Poppin.com - Director of User Experience and Content

New York, NY— April 2010 - April 2011

Developed brand voice for Internet startup; wrote and edited everything from press releases to business plans to video scripts with an eye toward voice consistency.

Popular Science Magazine – Associate Web Editor

New York, NY -2006 - 2009

Recruited and managed a stable of freelance writers. Assigned articles, vetted pitches, aided freelancers with story development, edited copy.