

Megan McGrath

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I am a naturalist writer and educator, content producer, editor, science researcher, and fine artist with over 15 years of experience in media, academic laboratories, journalism, and classrooms. I specialize in creating original research, writing, art, and experiences that get people in touch with the natural world—and helping other creators do the same.

SCIENCE COMMUNICATION: WRITING & EDITING, ILLUSTRATION, AUDIO

ATLAS OBSCURA

Remote

Online Experience Moderator & Guest Experiences Interface

July 2021 – Present

- Provide Zoom moderation, including host assistance, setting participant expectations, and solving unforeseen problems as public-facing company representative for Atlas Obscura’s suite of online experiences, lectures, and seminars
- Field customer service queries as a monitor of Atlas Obscura’s Guest Experiences email hotline

Course Coordinator

Nov. 2021 – Aug. 2022

- Provided stellar Guest Experiences support with “surprisingly refreshing and so very kind” responses to thousands of inquiries.
- Spearheaded and managed successful new operations processes resulting in increased outward-facing clarity, equity, improved optics, and a 76% reduction in customer inquiries
- Improved myriad back-end operations processes resulting in optimal team productivity during record high earnings quarter

Host of Online Experience ‘Art + Evolution: Drawing Animals with Megan McGrath’

2021

- Designed, scripted, published, and delivered all original content and marketing materials for online experience framed as “part science class and part art class,” focused on using drawing to study the natural world
- Led nine experiences for over 600 participants, yielding over \$10,500 in revenue and an average NPS of 48

MAMMAL/FISH ARTS

2019 – Present

Sole Proprietor

Remote

- Self-employed fine artist and science illustrator in watercolor, graphite, and ink. Selected works [here](#).
- Work by commission with intimate attention to detail and client needs, including original paintings, drawings, tattoo design, and value-added products such as postcard and t-shirt design
- Online store web design and management, order fulfillment, customer service and interfacing, and small-scale business management

SCIENCE EDITOR & CONTENT PRODUCER

2012 – Present

Freelance Contractor

Remote

- Editor specializing in science communication across diverse media
- Experience editing and producing popular science books, grant proposals, articles for journal publication, blogs, and audio for radio and podcasts
- Proficient at catering to a variety of audiences and client budgets

BALTIMORE SOUND SOCIETY

2016 – 2018

Co-Founder & Producer

Baltimore, MD

- Formed and managed a collaborative audio production group focused on Baltimore local interest
- Administration, concept creation, scripting, editing, voicing, research, production, and reporting

- Produced audio stories in collaboration with WEEA, the Center for Emerging Media, izi.TRAVEL, and the MuseWeb Foundation.

AAAS & VOICE OF AMERICA
AAAS Mass Media Fellow

2013
 Washington, DC

Researched and produced radio pieces focusing on new scientific findings for worldwide broadcast. Story design, interviews, writing, voicing, and audio editing in collaboration with production team.

RESEARCH & TEACHING

REISS LAB OF DOLPHIN COGNITION & COMMUNICATION
Research Assistant

2012 – 2019
 Baltimore, MD & New York, NY

- Autonomously designed and executed independent research projects focusing on the behavior and cognition of bottlenose dolphins at the National Aquarium in Baltimore
- Collaborated on projects with scientists and marine mammal training staff
- Coordinated and performed data collection & analysis as part of an inter-city research team
- Literature review, data management, statistical analysis, research design, writing, editing, and teamwork

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

2011 – 2013

Teaching Assistant to Professor Dan Perlman, Conservation Biology & Ecology

Waltham, MA

Regularly assessed and edited student papers in a writing-intensive class, delivered class lectures, and acted as the primary contact for students who desired additional aid in class performance

PEPPERBERG LAB & ALEX FOUNDATION
Research Assistant

2009 – 2012
 Waltham, MA

Aided in experimental studies of cognition in African grey parrots, including research design and implementation, animal care and lab maintenance, and social media management

EDUCATION

THE WHALE MUSEUM

Marine Naturalist Training Program

Jul. 2019
 Friday Harbor, WA

CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK, HUNTER COLLEGE
Master of Arts – Animal Behavior & Conservation, *cum laude*

Sept. 2012 – Jan. 2019
 New York, NY

SEABASS MARINE BIOACOUSTICS SUMMER SCHOOL
 Summer Course

Jun. 2014
 Leesburg, VA

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
Bachelor of Science – Biology

Sept. 2008 – May 2012
 Waltham, MA

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

WRITER

- ‘Succulent Plants’ & ‘Camels’ Humps Make Them Even Thirstier’: Short pieces for *Wild Life* by Atlas Obscura (In Press)
- [‘Whale Science Heard Round the World’](#): Conference report for *Spyhopper* American Cetacean Society Newsletter (2021)

EDITOR

- Ramos *et al.* (In Press). Lords of the Rings: Mud ring feeding by bottlenose dolphins in a Caribbean estuary revealed from sea, air, and space. *Marine Mammal Science*, Aug. 2021.
- [Why Are We Here?: The Story of the Origin, Evolution, and Future of Life on Our Planet](#) (Popular science book, 2019)

RESEARCHER

- [Dolphins in Space: Quantifying the Relative Positions of Bottlenose Dolphins \(*Tursiops truncatus*\)](#) (Master's thesis, 2019)
- McGrath, M., & Ramos, E. A. (2014). A comparison of bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*) vocalizations in two habitats using two acoustic monitoring methods in Turneffe Atoll, Belize. [Poster presentation]. SeaBASS BioAcoustic Summer School 2014.

AUDIO PRODUCER

- [The Book Thing](#), produced with the Baltimore Sound Society for the Marc Steiner Show (2016)
- [Researchers Record Iceberg Breaking Loud as an Earthquake](#): Research report & accompanying audio broadcast ([listen here](#)) for Voice of America (2013)

VOLUNTEER WORK

THE NATIONAL AQUARIUM

Research Assistant, Dolphin Discovery

Jun. 2014 – Aug. 2019
Baltimore, MD

SOUTHWEST BALTIMORE CHARTER SCHOOL

Guest Teacher: Lesson on Whales & Ocean

Nov. 2018
Baltimore, MD

CENTRO UNIVERSITARIO JORGE AMADO

Guest Lecturer: Ecology for Professor Marcos Rossi-Santos

Aug. 2013
Salvador, Brazil