

# HEATHER BOURBEAU

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## **Summary of Qualifications**

Passionately reporting, researching, and analyzing political and economic factors in international conflict, development, humanitarian aid, and human rights in over 30 countries for over 20 years. Developed strategic political analysis and reports for high-level UN officials. Wrote and edited for prominent national and international publications. Led communications strategies for multilateral organizations. Wrote speeches, op-eds, and analysis for California and UN officials. Worked in Europe, Cuba, Egypt, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Middle East, and Mexico.

## **EXPERIENCE**

7/14 to Present **Independent United Nations and USAID Contractor**

12/07 to 1/11 **Nairobi, Kenya; Belgrade, Serbia; New York, NY; San Francisco, CA**

- Researched and wrote a handbook on planning and budgeting for assistance and protections for vulnerable migrants for the **International Organization for Migration**.
- Researched and wrote the Final Report and nine thematic reports for **DAI's Transition Initiatives for Stabilization** (TIS) program in Somalia (USAID funded). Edited quarterly report, impact assessment reports, and scripts for video success stories.
- Researched, wrote, edited, and managed the content for Refugeeinfo.eu (a project of **Mercy Corps**, IRC, and Google), providing vital information to over 60,000 refugees in southern Europe. Worked with over 30 international and local organizations to get and verify information from eight countries. Managed translations and reviews. Trained editorial team.
- Prepared Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia presented to the Security Council in accordance with SCR 1612 for **UNICEF Somalia** (2008 and 2009). Researched security, political developments, as well as international responses and child protection measures. Analyzed interviews with victims and victims' families.

11/11 to 6/14 **Assistant Deputy Director, Office of Public Affairs (Exempt)  
California Department of Public Health**

- Provided managerial, administrative, and technical expert guidance for OPA. Supervised staff of 12 that responded to over 120 media queries each month.
- Worked with Governor's Office on climate change communications strategy.
- Determined overall media strategy for CDPH. Spearheaded transition to more proactive media outreach. Executed highly sensitive, controversial or emergency comms strategies.
- Served as the liaison with other state and federal agencies and department for public health advisories, recalls, and other cooperative or sensitive actions.

1/11 to 7/11 **Political Affairs Officer  
United Nations Mission in Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia**

- Monitored and analyzed political developments, trends that impact on democratic processes, peace, and stability in Liberia and the sub-region.
- Contributed to the drafting of Code Cables, Situation Reports, Weekly Reports, position papers, and talking points in coordination with other sections of UNMIL and UN agencies.
- Liaised with government officials, political parties, civil society organizations and key political actors in Liberia with particular regard to legislation and the run-up to 2011 general elections.

5/08 to 10/08 **Communications Specialist, UNDP  
New York, NY**

- Drafted communications materials for Growing Inclusive Markets report launch in over 25 countries, including website content, press kits, fact sheets, talking points, speeches, and op-eds for UNDP Administrator Kemal Dervis and other officials.
- Helped edit and re-vise the look of the final report, website, and summaries.

7/07 to 11/07 **Public Information Consultant, World Food Programme  
United Nations, New York, NY**

- Liaised with news media, informed media, and wrote news releases and talking points.

- Part of small team that developed North American visibility campaigns, including with Yum! Brands, Chefs for Humanity, FEED, and FreeRice.com.
- Helped define WFP's communications strategy.

11/05 to 5/07 **Contributing Writer, "Not On Our Watch"**

- Wrote one-third and edited the entire bestselling book *Not On Our Watch: The Mission to End Genocide in Darfur and Beyond* with Don Cheadle and John Prendergast (Hyperion, May 2007).

1/99 to 7/07 **Freelance Writer/Editor**

3/93 to 4/97 **New York, NY; Washington, DC; Berkeley, CA**

- Publications include: *Economist*, *The Financial Times*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Slate*, and *Wired*.
- Organizations include: Catholic Relief Services, Center for Investigative Reporting, Committee to Protect Journalists, Foreign Policy Institute, PEN International, UNHCR, and USAID/USDA ("Food Security in the Greater Horn of Africa").
- Covered political and social trends, elections and women's rights in Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Poland, and the United States; sports diplomacy and economy in Cuba; economic developments and financial markets in Israel, West Bank, and Jordan; and international relief efforts and the mining industry in Madagascar.

7/03 to 7/05 **Reporter/Researcher, Vanity Fair**

**New York, NY**

- Researched stories such as "Path to War," "Order the Fish: America's Beef is Rotten," "Tom DeLay's Hard Drive," and "The New Establishment."
- Worked with legal team, editors, and writers to fact check, ensure legalities, and light edit.

9/99 to 3/00 **International Policy Reporter, TheStreet.com**

**New York, NY**

- Covered international political and economic developments with a particular focus on emerging and converging economies.
- Reported from the WTO Ministerial in Seattle and IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings.

5/98 to 1/99 **Reporter, AP Dow Jones**

**New York, NY**

- Reported on U.S. corporate bond, Treasury, and equity markets.
- Worked with *Wall Street Journal* bond reporters to produce pieces for "Credit Markets".

5/97 to 5/98 **Reporter, Financial Times**

**Washington, DC**

- Reported on foreign policy, trade, technology and economic trends. Articles included "Amateur wrestlers get to grips with a thaw in US-Iran hostilities," "Gingrich and spirit of Ulan Bator," "Women still Clinton's biggest fans," and "Net gains for rural poor."
- Conceptualized, researched, and organized out-of-town reports for senior editors.

2/94 to 2/96 **Creator and Executive Director, Women in Multimedia**

**Berkeley/ San Francisco, CA**

- Created and directed Women in Multimedia, a non-profit organization of 300 members that supported women's leadership and equal participation in digital media.
- Chaired board of directors, coordinated volunteers, and developed mission statement.
- Conceptualized, planned, and coordinated the inaugural panel discussion, "Women in Multi-Media," held at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts in San Francisco.

**EDUCATION**

The Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)  
MA, International Affairs, concentration in International Economics

University of California at Berkeley  
BA, Mass Communications, French Minor

**LANGUAGES**

French: working proficiency, German: advanced, Spanish: beginning.