

Suzanne Fisher

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Date of birth: July 14 1972

Nationality: Canadian and British (dual citizenship)

Professional Skills A qualified and experienced web editor, radio and print journalist with excellent editorial and online production skills. Passionate about the use of communication to bring about social change, I have used radio drama series to support conflict resolution and human rights work in West and Central Africa. An analytical thinker with in-depth knowledge of international developmental and environmental issues. Excellent people skills gained from working in a variety of cultural contexts.

Journalism and Development Communications experience

Web content manager, International Institute for Environment and Development **July '11 - present**

Developed the organisation's social media and online strategy, which guided the recent website redesign. I drove the redesign process, which now better showcases our latest blogs and online content, and integrates social media. I manage editorial planning for the website and the organisations' social media channels, and produce analytics reports. I work with researchers and staff to develop and edit timely, strong online content, which has increased readership and traffic on the website and social media channels. I also report from key events and conferences, carry out online editorial trainings and am responsible for delivering all the organisation's social media content.

Web editor at Save the Children **April '09 - July '11**

Provided editorial vision and planning for the website and chaired the online editorial group providing oversight of all online content, wrote and edited website content and blogs, commissioned content and project managed content development, maintained an editorial and homepage calendar, wrote emails, promoted campaigns and blogs and supported emergency responses through social media.

Writer and Editor at Save the Children **December 04 - April 09**

Wrote and edited a range of materials for Save the Children's external and internal publications, including the 2006 - 2007 Annual Report, policy reports, online emergencies news, supporter publications and campaign materials gathered in the DRC highlighting the effect of the conflict in the east of the country on children.

Consultant to Health Unlimited **October - December 04**

Evaluated a communications project addressing issues such as sexual health and female genital mutilation in the Horn of Africa through radio and peer to peer communicators. Participatory methodologies involving staff and project beneficiaries were used to assess appropriateness and impact.

Communications consultant to La Benevolencija, Rwanda **July - October 04**

Reviewed and edited radio drama scripts and developed storylines for the scriptwriters. Wrote and presented a paper on the project's audience research to an entertainment and education conference in South Africa, and facilitated a training workshop with the writers.

Head of Mission of Rwandan Reconciliation Communications Project, La Benevolencija, Kigali **July 03 - July 04**

Responsible for developing the project's communications strategy and activities, setting up the office administrative systems and recruiting and hiring staff. Developed the overall storyline for the radio drama series in conjunction with the scriptwriters and academic experts. Led the scriptwriters through trainings, developing episode synopses and reviewed and edited all radio drama scripts. Developed a message design and evaluation method with a strong focus on audience research and participation through the creation of local listener groups.

Technical Assistant to Radio Salankoloto, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso **2001-2002**

Developed a local community radio's first drama series. Tasks included initiating and securing funding for the project, writing the storyline and producing an educational and entertaining radio drama series on HIV and AIDS in Moore, a local language, in collaboration with an international donor and a local theatre group. A system, in order to better involve the radio's listener club in the evaluation of radio programmes, was developed. All work was carried out in French. Placement recruited and financed by UNAIS.

Technical Assistant to “Journalistes en Afrique pour le developpement”, Ouagadougou, BF 2000- 2001
Provided technical support to an International Development Research Centre (IDRC) funded project managed by a local association of journalists. All work was carried out in French. Placement recruited and financed by UNAIS.

Freelance broadcast and print journalism experience 1997 – 2003

BBC World Service World Learning Series

Researched, wrote and produced a four part series of 25-minute radio programmes titled: “Chats, Snaps and Videotape” for the independent UK production company CSA Telltapes, which was broadcast by the BBC WS. The series takes an in-depth look at Nigeria’s videos, music, radio and portrait photography studios and examines how they reflect the ingredients of modern life in Nigeria. July 2003.

BBC World Service Focus on Africa programme

Radio news package examined how slash and burn agriculture provided farmers with a strategy for surviving the ongoing instability in Liberia. June 2002.

BBC World Service One Planet programme

Radio feature focused on the messages of peace and reconciliation being broadcast by Studio Ijambo, a radio studio, based in Bujumbura, the capital of the civil war-torn country. June 2000.

BBC World Service Everywoman programme

Radio feature discussed counselling methods used to help Sierra Leonean women recover from the trauma of sexual abuse and gang rape during the country’s nine-year civil war. April 2000.

Interworld Radio (online radio initiative launched by Panos Institute and Oneworld)

Radio feature analysing Sierra Leonean trauma counselling methods. Was online in 2000.

The Independent on Sunday travel section

Interviews with Mike Oldfield and Danny Rampling, feature articles, book reviews and other articles.

Articles also written for *New African* magazine, Gemini News Service, *Focus* magazine, *Index on Censorship* (Bi-monthly press censorship magazine funded by UNESCO) and *Orbit* (Volunteer Services Overseas quarterly periodical).

News Editor for GEOEurope and Mapping Awareness. Adams Business Media, UK 1998- 1999

Wrote or commissioned news stories for all news sections in the two monthly geospatial technology magazines. Researched and wrote one investigative column. Proofread all news sections after layout. Followed developments in the remote sensing/ geographical information system industries.

Other International/ Development-related experience

Assistant Researcher at the Overseas Development Institute 1998

Researcher on ODI’s Forestry Programme.

JET Programme Language Teacher, Miyazaki Prefectural government, Japan 1995-1996

Taught English to junior school children in 26 schools in Miyazaki, Kyushu, Japan.

Queen’s Project for International Development in Potosi, Bolivia 1994

Wrote a health survey discussing the impacts of three heavily polluted rivers on Potosi inhabitants.

Education

Writing for the web, Neilsen Norman Group. Training on web writing techniques to increase a website’s usability. 2008

MA in Radio, Goldsmiths College, University of London, UK 2002 – 2003

Advanced training on radio production (news, features and radio drama), radio journalism and media law.

NVQ Foundation Skills certificate IV in Journalism. National Journalism Training Centre, UK 1998

Training in interviewing techniques, media law, writing and sub-editing news and feature articles, laying out text and graphics with QuarkXPress, tee line shorthand and the use of flat plans.

MA in Environment and Development with distinction, SOAS, University of London, UK. 1996-1997

The course provided a grounding in various development theories and development economics.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in English literature and History. 1991-1995

Queen’s University, Kingston Ontario, Canada. Received a 2:1.

Ontario Scholar Award recipient with 8 Ontario Academic Credits. 1990-1991

Lycee Canadien en France, Saint Jean-cap-Ferrat, France.

Computer skills: Experienced with using Red Dot and Drupal Content Management Systems, Adobe Photoshop, various social media and blogging platforms, Microsoft Office, and various audio editing softwares.

French: Fluent verbally; advanced writing skills. **References, recordings of radio work or cuttings provided upon request.**