

SUSAN ZAKIN

455 Chestnut Street, San Francisco, CA 94133

www.susanzakin.com

szakin@gmail.com

tel: 415-748-9975

EDUCATION

M.F.A., Creative Writing, 2008
The University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Advisor, Elizabeth Evans

M.S., Journalism, 1983
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York, NY

B.A. cum laude, English and History, 1979
Connecticut College, New London, CT

Major fields: Nonfiction, Fiction, Journalism.

BOOKS

In Katrina's Wake: Portraits of Loss from an Unnatural Disaster. Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press, 2006.

Naked: Writers Uncover the Way We Live on Earth. (Editor). New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003.

Coyotes and Town Dogs: Earth First and the Environmental Movement. Tucson, AZ: University of Arizona Press, 2001. (Second paperback re-issue).

Coyotes and Town Dogs: Earth First and the Environmental Movement. New York: Penguin, 1995. (First paperback re-issue).

Coyotes and Town Dogs: Earth First and the Environmental Movement. New York: Viking, 1993.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Afterlife of Victor Kamara: a novel about a young lieutenant who seizes power in a coup in West Africa and his subsequent life as an exile in suburban Virginia.

Terra Incognita, a nonfiction book about the desert.

EXPERIENCE

Mentor 2010-present
Creative Nonfiction, Pittsburgh, PA
Edit and teach in a low-residency nonfiction mentoring program.

Director 2008-present
nature+culture, Lamu, Kenya (www.lamutravel.com)
Founder and operator of online ecotravel business and NGO with Kenyan partner.

Writer 1984-present
Nationally recognized environmental writer. Books widely reviewed and adopted as texts by major universities. Essays, columns, and articles published in national magazines and major newspapers, including *Salon*, *Vogue*, *Orion*, *Sierra*, *Field & Stream*, *OnEarth*, *The New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *San Francisco Examiner*, *Newsday*, the *Denver Post*, and frequently, *The Los Angeles Times*.

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- Editor Spring, 2010
The SECURE Project, Lamu, Kenya
Insecure land tenure is believed to be at the root of many conflicts in post-colonial Africa. I was called in to assist the SECURE Project, a USAID project in Lamu, Kenya, with preparing reports on land tenure assessments in four pilot communities on the Kenya coast. Working under intense deadline pressure, I strengthened research, instituted consistent formatting, and wrote executive summaries that appealed to both novice and knowledgeable readers. Participated in meetings to edit and review draft reports for final publication with officials from Kenya's Ministry of Lands.
- Visiting Assistant Professor 2009
Suffolk University Dakar Campus, Dakar, Senegal Taught writing and literature to a pan-African student population at the international campus of this U.S. university. Used a variety of pedagogical approaches to reach students from diverse educational backgrounds. Assignments included writing personal essays and rhetorical analysis of visual media.
- Contributing Writer 2002-2007
LA Weekly.
Writer on environment and Africa, with occasional forays into arts and book reviews.
- Syndicated Newspaper Columnist 2000-2002
Wick Communications, Tucson, AZ
Wrote weekly column for the *Tucson Weekly*. Columns syndicated to a chain of daily newspapers in the American West.
- Senator John Heinz Fellow in Environmental Reporting 2001
International Center for Journalists, Washington, DC
Trained environmental journalists and reported on environmental issues in Madagascar.
- National Political Columnist 1995-1998
Sports Afield, New York, NY
Covered national environmental politics for a 500,000-circulation, National Magazine Award-winning outdoor publication. Hired by Terry McDonell (former editor, Esquire, now editor-in-chief of Sports Illustrated) to improve the quality of the magazine's environmental coverage.
- Consultant, Environmental New Media Startups 1997-1999
Worked on print magazine and Internet startups. Specific projects included working with Washington, D.C. staff of major national conservation organization on print startup, and consulting on verde.com, a \$12 million San Francisco-based Internet portal.

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Environmental Writer and Editor 1984-1990
Wrote and edited newsletters, annual reports, brochures and speeches on conservation topics for government agencies and non-government organizations including *Sierra Club*, *International Rivers Network*, *The Oceanic Society*, and the *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*.

Reporter, Associate 1984, 1987
Center for Investigative Reporting, San Francisco, CA
Wrote and researched investigative environmental stories for newspapers and television.

Sunday Edition Reporter 1981-82
The New London Day, New London, Connecticut
Wrote issue-oriented news features for this respected New England daily newspaper.

Police Reporter 1981-82
Ocean County Times-Observer
Covered the police beat in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

COURSES TAUGHT

Suffolk University, Dakar campus
Composition 101 & 102, Fall 2009
World Literature 216, Fall 2009

University of Arizona
Intermediate Nonfiction Writing 310, Spring 2008
Guest Lecturer, Advanced Fiction Writing, Spring 2008
Introduction to Fiction Writing 210, Spring 2007
Composition 101 & 102, 2005-06; Honors Composition 103, Fall 2007
Narrative Nonfiction Writing, *Writing Works Program*, Spring, 1999
Intermediate Journalism, Fall 1992

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
Sense and Sensibility in Nonfiction (Craft class)
Wesleyan Writers Conference, Summer 2007

International Center for Journalists, Washington, D.C.
Environmental Journalism Workshops in Madagascar, April-July 2001

Yavapai Community College, Prescott, AZ
Guest Lecturer in Environmental Writing, 1992

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AWARDS

Participating Artist, Creative Capital Foundation Workshop, Tucson AZ (2008)

Nonfiction Teaching Fellow, Wesleyan Summer Writers Workshop, Middletown, CT (2008)

Fiction Fellowship, Summer Literary Seminars in Kenya (2006)

Arizona Commission on the Arts Artist Travel Award for Kenya (fiction) (2006)

Arizona Commission on the Arts Artist Project Award for Nonfiction \$5000 (2005)

Arizona Commission on the Arts Travel Award for Sierra Leone (fiction) (2005)

Tucson-Pima Arts Council Arts Travel Award for Sierra Leone (fiction) (2005)

Full scholarship, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, FL (fiction and nonfiction) (2004)

Writer's Residency Award, Ucross Foundation, Clearmont, WY (nonfiction) (2003)

Writer's Residency Award, Caldera, Sisters, OR (nonfiction) (2003)

Arizona Newspaper Association. Won both first and second place awards for best columns/best analysis/commentary non-dailies with circulation over 10,000. (2001)

Senator John Heinz Fellow in International Environmental Reporting (Madagascar), International Center for Journalists, Washington, D.C. (2001)

Tucson-Pima Arts Council Project Award for Nonfiction \$5000 (2001)

Writer's Residency Award, Blue Mountain Center, Blue Mountain, NY (nonfiction) (1991)

PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Importance of Not Being So Earnest: Bringing Environmental Writing Back into the Mainstream

Nonfiction Now conference

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

Panel organizer and moderator (2005)

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In Cities Lies the Preservation of Nature Writing: A Writers Roundtable
Plenary Panel, Western Literature Association Annual Meeting
Los Angeles, CA
Plenary Panelist (2005)

Environmental Journalism Panel
27th Annual Convention
Association of Alternative Newsweeklies
San Antonio, Texas (2004)

Edward Abbey Celebration
University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
Panelist (1999)

The Future of American Conservation
Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, New York, NY
Roundtable participant with heads of federal land management agencies and CEOs of national environmental organizations. (1999)

Writers on Writing: Focus on Edward Abbey and Environmental Radicalism
Annual Conference, Society of Environmental Journalists
Tucson, AZ (1996)

Annual Meeting
Oregon Natural Desert Association
Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, OR
Keynote Speaker (1997)

25th Anniversary Celebration
Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, Eilat, Israel.
Presenter (1995)

READINGS & MEDIA

Radio interviews, essays, and commentary for the book *In Katrina's Wake: Portraits of Loss from an Unnatural Disaster*. (2005-2006)

Radio, television, and bookstore appearances for *Naked: Writers Uncover the Way We Live on Earth*. (2004)

Bookstore appearances for the anthology *Living in the Runaway West*. (2000)

Radio commentary and interviews for *High Country News* article "The Hunters and the Hunted: The Arizona-Mexico border turns into the 21st century frontier." (2000)

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Radio, television, and bookstore appearances for *Coyotes and Town Dogs: Earth First! and the Environmental Movement*. Tour included Berkeley, Los Angeles, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. (1993)

SERVICE

Writer/Editor/Coach, *Lamu Marine Conservation Trust*, Lamu, Kenya. Worked with local staff of this conservation group to build outreach and marketing capacity. Assisted outreach coordinator in developing new brochure and web content. (2008)

Judge, "Eyes Wide Open" Essay Contest for high school students, American Friends Service Committee, Tucson, Arizona. Students wrote essays from the point of view of a fly on the wall in wartime Iraq. (2005)

Board member, *110 Degrees*, a magazine produced by at-risk youth in Tucson, AZ. (1999)

Community Activist and Volunteer, Tucson, AZ. Initiated successful campaign to protect the 695-acre Sweetwater Preserve in the Tucson Mountains. Served on citizen's committees for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, a multi-species habitat protection plan. Produced website for the Coalition for the Sonoran Desert Protection Plan, an umbrella group representing citizen and environmental groups. (1999)

Shop Steward, National Writers Union. Co-founded the Tucson sub-local of the National Writers Union. Conceived Crossing Genres theme for writer's conference in San Francisco, CA. Speakers included Paul Krassner and Merle Kessler (a.k.a. Ian Sholes, "Ask Dr. Science!") (1987-92)

Phone Bank Volunteer, Sierra Club, San Francisco, CA. Volunteered in the effort to pass the California Desert Protection Act. (1987)

PERIODICALS AND ANTHOLOGIES (PARTIAL LISTING)

ESSAYS

"Men in the Dunes." (Personal essay on Nature vs. the nature of the relationship between men and women.) *Ecotone* 2.2 (Spring 2007): 1-8. (Print only)

"America's dance with a devil." (Op-Ed on the need to bring Liberia's former president to trial for war crimes.) *The Los Angeles Times* 27 Nov. 2005.

"The Ground You Fall Through: Environmental and social neglect left New Orleans on dangerous footing." (Essay on Hurricane Katrina.) *LA Weekly* 9 Sept. 2005.

"Nature as defined by the bayou." (Essay on Hurricane Katrina.) *The Los Angeles Times* 6 Sept. 2005.

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“Mosquitos don’t discriminate.” (Op-Ed on personal experiences with malaria.) *The Los Angeles Times* 12 June 2005.

“A cold night and then things got frosty.” (Essay on friendship and rafting the Colorado River.) *The Los Angeles Times* 15 Feb. 2005.

“Postcard from the Redneck Riviera.” (Essay on hurricane season in Florida.) *OnEarth Magazine* Winter 2005.

“The Ecology of Fire: Why the empire wanted to burn so badly.” (Essay on Southern California wildfires.) *LA Weekly* 7 Nov. 2003.

“Darwin in Soho.” (Personal essay on extinction and shopping.) *Mountain Gazette* 81 (Mar. 2002): 30-31. (Print only)

“Help the land of the lemurs move forward.” (Op-Ed on regime change in Madagascar.) *Christian Science Monitor* 22 Feb. 2002.

“Goodbye to All That. Again.” (Personal essay on nostalgia, idealism, and the environmental movement.) *Orion Magazine*, 18 (Winter 1999): 88.

ARTICLES (partial listing)

“Why Madagascar Matters.” *The Huffington Post* 24 Nov. 2010.

“Elephant Man.” (profile of Kenyan conservationist Richard Leakey) *Sierra* Jan.-Feb. 2010.

“Kenya’s Constitutional Crisis: While press fixates on tribal conflict, Kenyans fight for their democracy.” *LA Weekly* 13 Jan. 2008.

“The Caged Lion: Environmentalist Rod Coronado returns to prison a decade after his radical heyday.” *LA Weekly* 8 Aug. 2006.

“Out of Africa.” (Arts) *LA Weekly* 12 July 2006.

“The Flight of the Condor: Can the giant birds survive Tejon Ranch development?” *LA Weekly* 18 Feb. 2005.

“The Invasion of the Elegant Trogons: Is the Sierra Club’s anti-immigration insurgency for the birds?” *LA Weekly* 2 Apr. 2004.

“The Burning Men: Forest fires rage in the West while politicians try to turn prevention into pork.” *LA Weekly* 4 Aug. 2003. (Reprinted on the Op-Ed page of the *Tucson Citizen*).

“Port in a Storm: Dealing with the polluting ways of world trade.” *LA Weekly* 24 Mar. 2003.

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“The Gods of Small Things: The Center for Biological Diversity cares as much about the unarmored three-spine stickleback as it does a cathedral forest of trees, which is why it is reinventing the environmental movement and could be saving Southern California in the process.” *LA Weekly* 21 Nov. 2002.

“Paradise Lost – Again: The Bush Plan for the Environment.” *LA Weekly* 13 Nov. 2002.

“Delta blues: California struggles to get a massive restoration effort off the ground.” *High Country News* 30 Sept. 2002. (Print only)

“Riding the Line.” *High Country News* 9 Aug. 2002.

“Saving San Bruno Mountain: Butterflies and Bulldozers on an Island in Time.” *Bay Nature Magazine* Apr-May 2002.

“Kings of the Wild Frontier? Can 21st-Century Problems be Solved with a 19th-Century Game Plan?” *Field and Stream*, Jan. 2001.

“Riders from Hell.” *OnEarth* Spring 2001.

“The Hunters and the Hunted: The Arizona-Mexico border turns into the 21st century frontier.” *High Country News* 9 Oct. 2000. (Available online under “Border Lures the Young”)

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sixth Extinction” (Part 2). *Field & Stream* Apr. 2000.

“The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sixth Extinction” (Part 1). *Field & Stream* Mar. 2000.

“Illegal or Politics As Usual?” *Salon* 6 Jan. 2000.

“Nonpoint Pollution: The Quiet Killer.” *Field & Stream* Aug. 1999: 84-88.

“Is Tiger Woods’ Father a Racist?” *Salon* 17 June 1999.

“The War Against Sprawl, Parts I and II.” *Salon* 21 Jan. 1999.

“Dismantling Progress: Conservation and the 104th Congress.” *Trout Winter* 1999. (Print only)

“Shake-Up: Greens Inside the Beltway.” *High Country News* 11 Nov. 1996: 14.

“New Mexico: Conflict in Catron County.” *Wilderness* Winter 1995.

“Rare Bird in a Rare Land: Stalking the elusive Trogon elegans in Arizona’s spectacular Chiricahua Mountains.” *The New York Times* 12 Dec. 1993: sec. 5: 1, 18.

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“Earth First! Everything changed the summer when the FBI arrested the environmental movement’s most charismatic leader.” *Smart* 5 (Sept-Oct 1989). (Print only)

“Reading the Smoke Signals.” *Parenting* Sept. 1989.

“Cyber-Punk: Performance Art on the Edge.” *Vogue* Dec. 1987.

“The Ominous Color of Toxic Dumping.” *Sierra* July/Aug 1987.

SYNDICATED COLUMNS

Tucson Weekly/Wick Communications

“Separate Suburbs.” *Tucson Weekly* 8 Sept. 2001.

“Gangsta Girl.” *Tucson Weekly* 2 Aug. 2001.

“The Burning River.” *Tucson Weekly* 19 July 2001.

“Double Vision.” *Tucson Weekly* 19 July 2001.

“Funk Factor.” *Tucson Weekly* 12 July 2001.

“The Wild Bunch.” *Tucson Weekly* 21 June 2001.

“Avoidance 101.” *Tucson Weekly* 14 June 2001.

“It’s Habitat, Stupid!” *Tucson Weekly* 7 June 2001.

“Politics of Extinction.” *Tucson Weekly* 31 May 2001

“Days of the Alpha Wolf.” *Tucson Weekly* 24 May 2001.

“Tit for Tat.” *Tucson Weekly* 17 May 2001.

“The Next Holocaust.” *Tucson Weekly* 10 May 2001.

“Historic Mistake.” *Tucson Weekly* 15 Mar. 2001.**

“Free Amy!” *Tucson Weekly* 22 Feb. 2001.

“Market Forces.” *Tucson Weekly* 15 Feb. 2001.**

“Yuppie Revolt.” *Tucson Weekly* 23 Aug. 2001.

“Hawker’s Thanksgiving.” *Tucson Weekly* 23 Nov. 2000.

** *Prize-winning columns*

Writers on the Range Syndicate

“Roadless Policy battle appears to be elaborate charade.” *The Idaho Statesman* 5 May 2001.
(Print only)

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“Where Are Those Darn Militias When You Need Them?” *Colorado Central Magazine* 73: (Mar. 2000): 2.

“Gore could have ridden West to victory.” *Ouray County Plaindealer* 30 Nov. 2000. (Print only)

“Wolves Deserve the West’s Protection” *Idaho Statesman* 21 July 2000. (Print only)

“I Saw the Best Wolves of My Generation Destroyed by Madness.” *Grist* 20 July 2000.

“Grazing Saddles West with a Heck of a Problem.” *Grist* 26 Aug. 1999.

“Will the Military Protect the West’s Last, Best Place?” *Grist* 7 May 1999. (Reprinted in *The Arizona Daily Star*)

MAGAZINE COLUMNS

Sports Afield

“Terms of Endangerment.” *Sports Afield* June-July 1998

“The Forest Service Under Fire.” *Sports Afield* May 1998

“To Save the Salmon Save the River.” *Sports Afield* Apr. 1998

“Birds v. Jets (in the Florida Everglades).” *Sports Afield* Mar. 1998

“Who Can Save the Wild West?” *Sports Afield* Feb. 1998

“No Clear-Cut Answers in the Maine Woods.” *Sports Afield* Nov. 1997

“The Environmental President?” *Sports Afield* Winter 1997-98.

“Fenced Out: A Battle Rages Over The Right to Hunt.” *Sports Afield* Sept. 1997.

“The Steelhead Plan: Less Politics More Science.” *Sports Afield* June-July 1997.

“Small-Town Spin: 100 Ways to Get a Hunter’s Vote.” *Sports Afield* Nov. 1996.

“Election Forecast.” *Sports Afield* Oct. 1996.

“The Endangered Newts.” *Sports Afield* Sept. 1996.

“Funny Hats & Strange Bedfellows.” *Sports Afield* Aug. 1996.

“DC Update: Are Legislators Working?” *Sports Afield* July 1996.

“Breaking the Bear Poachers.” *Sports Afield* May 1996.

“Beyond National Parks.” *Sports Afield* Mar. 1996

“Back to the Pleistocene.” *Sports Afield* Feb. 1996

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“Everybody’s Backyard.” *Sports Afield* Winter 1995-96.

“A Home on the Range.” *Sports Afield* Nov. 1995

“Timber Wars.” *Sports Afield* July 1995.

“Endangered Species Act.” *Sports Afield* May 1995.

“The Misguided War Over Refuges” *Sports Afield* Mar. 1995.

BOOK REVIEWS

Home Ground: Language for an American Landscape, by Barry Lopez, editor. *The Los Angeles Times Book Review* 8 Oct. 2006.

Journey Without Maps, The Lawless Roads, by Graham Greene. *LA Weekly* 19 July 2006.

“Dead Men Walking: Border crossings gone very, very wrong.” Rev. of *The Devil’s Highway* by Luis Urrea. *LA Weekly* 3 June 2004.

Good News for a Change: Hope for a Troubled Planet, by David Suzuki and Holly Dressel. *OnEarth Magazine* Summer 2002.

All Our Relations: Native Struggle for Land and Life, by Winona LaDuke. *New Mexico Historical Review* 77.1 (Winter 2002): 100-101. (Print only)

ANTHOLOGIES

“Tierra Incognita.” *Naked: Writers Uncover the Way We Live on Earth*. Ed. Susan Zakin. New York: Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003. ix-xv, 69-87.

“Rebel Yell in a Mall”, “Grazing: The Hard Facts”, and “How the Farm Bureau Lost its Overalls”. *Living in the Runaway West: Partisan Views from Writers on the Range*. Ed. High Country News. Golden, CO: Fulcrum Publishers, 2000. 27-28, 96-98, 121-123.

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REFERENCES

Elizabeth Evans
Creative Writing Program
Department of English
PO Box 210067
Tucson, AZ 85721-0067
520-325-6172
evanse@email.arizona.edu

David Galef
English Department
Montclair State University
1 Normal Avenue
Montclair, NJ 07009
973-655-5145
galefd@montclair.edu

David Gessner
Department of Creative Writing
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
601 South College Road
Wilmington, North Carolina 28403
910.962.7489 (office)
910.512.7046 (cell)
gessner52@hotmail.com

Joe Donnelly, Editor
SLAKE Magazine
2147 Valentine St.
Los Angeles, CA 90026
(www.slake.la)
323.644.0404
joedonnelly64@yahoo.com

This is a true and accurate statement of my activities and accomplishments. I understand that misrepresentation in securing promotion and tenure may lead to dismissal or suspension under ABOR Policy 6-201 7.1.b.
