

Nicholas Weiler, PhD.

Science Writer

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About me: I am a science and health writer based in San Francisco, California. Trained as a neuroscientist, I now spin tales of curiosity and discovery through voice, keyboard, and coffee. Trained as a neuroscientist, I now spin tales of curiosity and discovery through voice, keyboard, and coffee.

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

- Oct, 2015 - pres **Public Information Officer**, UCSF Office of Public Affairs Supervisor: Kristin Bole
- June-Sept, 2015 **Intern**, UCSF Public Affairs Office Supervisor: Kristin Bole
- I work with reporters and researchers to share UCSF scientists' fundamental discoveries and clinical insights in stem cell biology, human genetics, drug development, cancer research, and other fields with the public.
 - Wrote press releases, placed local and national media to place stories, and write web feature stories.
- Mar-June, 2015 **Intern**, San Jose Mercury News Supervisor: Ken McLaughlin
- Reported Northern California news stories on topics ranging including California drought, transgender issues, and science education.
- Jan-Mar, 2015 **Intern**, Science Magazine Supervisor: David Grimm
- Pitched and wrote brief, lively news stories about important developments in the scientific literature.
- Oct-Dec, 2014 **Intern**, Santa Cruz Sentinel Supervisor: Julie Copeland
- Reported Santa Cruz area news stories on topics including agriculture, water issues, arts, science, and food.
- 2014 – 2015 **Freelance**
- My independent reporting work includes two recent profile articles for Stanford Magazine and stories for mongabay.com, NASA's Visualization Explorer iPad app, and the ASCB Post blog.
 - I reported conference summaries for two recent National Academies meetings: the 2014 Keck Futures Initiative conference on collective behavior and the 2015 Beckman Initiative for Macular Research, and wrote 4 daily news stories on contract for AGU's GeoSpace and Eos blogs from the 2014 AGU meeting.
- 2012 - 2015 **Blogging**
- As a Stanford graduate student I founded a writing group for scientists and was a regular contributor and editor for our blog, NeuwriteWest.org, as well as our podcasts (see below).

RADIO EXPERIENCE

- May-Sept, 2014 **Podcast Host**, Worldview Stanford
- I wrote, voiced, and edited educational podcast episodes on topics ranging from the neuroscience of reward, the psychology of punishment, the price of carbon, and the fiasco of Rondonia in the Amazonian rainforest.
- 2013 - 2014 **Podcast Host**, NeuwriteWest's "Brains and Bourbon" podcast
- I developed and co-hosted a playful podcast series featuring interviews of neuroscientists over their favorite cocktails.

OTHER SCIENCE POLICY & COMMUNICATION EXPERIENCE

- Mar-Sept, 2014 **Content Producer and Course Host**, Worldview Stanford (5 months)
- Wrote engaging copy and recorded podcasts about experiments and ideas in neuroscience, psychology, and environmental science for a new series of blended online/onsite courses at Stanford.
 - As course host, I engaged online participants in provocative and entertaining discussions about the material.
- Jan-Mar, 2014 **Mirzayan Fellow**, National Academy of Science Koshland Science Museum (3 months)
- Developed content for interactive exhibit about community resilience in the face of natural disasters.
 - Implemented exhibit through HTML5 and CSS web design and multimedia/video editing.
- 2011 – 2012 **Lecturer**, “Synapses” for Stanford SIMR & EXPLORE Summer Courses
- Developed entertaining lecture on the structure and function of the synapse for advanced high-school students.
- 2009 **Teaching Assistant**, Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory Neurobiology Course, Imaging Section
- Taught microscopy techniques, helped Ph.D. students and post-docs develop 3-week synaptic imaging project.
- 2008 – 2013 **Volunteer**, Brain Day
- Visited middle school science classes throughout Palo Alto to teach and inspire curiosity about the brain.

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

- 2012 - 2014 **Co-Founder, President**, Neuwrite-West; **Editor**, NeuwriteWest.org
- Conceived and organized a graduate student group to promote public communication of science.
 - Evaluated article pitches and edited posts to our blog neuwritewest.org and developed *Neurotalk* and *Brains and Bourbon* podcasts.
- 2008 - 2010 **Co-Founder**, NUTMEG (Neuroscientists United Together Making Exceptional Graduates)
- Organized a student group to develop and host social gatherings, seminars, and debates to integrate diverse topics of interest to Stanford’s broad neuroscience community.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- 2014 - 2015 **University of California, Santa Cruz**
Certificate in Science Communication (June 2015)
- 2007 - 2014 **Stanford University School of Medicine**
Ph.D. in Neurosciences (January 9, 2014)
- 2003 - 2007 **Columbia University**
B.A. in Neurobiology & Behavior, *magna cum laude*

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2014 - 2015 ARCS Foundation Northern California Chapter Scholarship to UC Santa Cruz Science Communication Program
- 2013 National Academies of Sciences Christine Mirzayan Science Policy Fellowship
- 2010 - 2013 Ruth L. Kirchstein National Research Service Award (NRSA) Fellowship (NIH NINDS)

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES)

1. Weiler, NC, Collman, FC, Vogelstein, JT, Burns, R, and Smith, SJ. Molecular architecture of barrel column synapses following experience-dependent plasticity. *Nature Scientific Data*, Dec. 23, 2014.
2. O'Rourke, NA, Weiler, NC, Micheva, K, and Smith, SJ. Deep molecular diversity of mammalian synapses: why it matters and how to measure it. *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*, May 10, 2012.
3. Micheva, KD, Weiler, NC, Busse, B, O'Rourke, NA., and Smith, S.J. Single-Synapse Analysis of a Diverse Synapse Population: Proteomic Imaging Methods and Markers. *Neuron*, November 18, 2010.
4. Weiler, NC, Wood, L, Yu, J, Solla, S, and Shepherd, GMG. Top-down laminar organization of the excitatory network in motor cortex. *Nature Neuroscience* February 3, 2008.