

# APRIL SIMPSON

Journalist based in Greater Houston, Texas

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Award-winning journalist who loves people, policy, narrative writing and making complex stories easier to understand. From government betrayal in South Carolina, to eco-tourism efforts in the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, my work spans national investigations, breaking news, community reporting, explanatory journalism, audio reporting, copy-editing and fact-checking.

## Skills

Content development, data analysis, Datawrapper, Excel, FOIA, HTML, narrative journalism, investigative reporting and research, social media

## Experience

OCTOBER 2020 - MAY 2024

**Center for Public Integrity**, Washington, D.C. - *Senior reporter, racial equity*

- Used data analysis, FOIAs and investigative skills to write long form and quick-turnaround stories about racial inequality, from [health care](#) to [system failures harming marginalized communities](#).
- Collaborated across newsroom teams, including audience and data, to execute projects with outside publishing partners. Created tools aimed at reaching audiences in underserved communities.
- Hosted and reported the third season of the newsroom's award-winning narrative podcast, [The Heist](#), drawing 48K downloads. The multimedia project focused on the federal government's systemic discrimination against Black farmers, and their enduring struggle for sustainability.
- Developed proficiency in audio reporting and script writing.
- One of two investigative reporters on a team that spent two years doing historical and genealogical research to produce "40 Acres and a Lie," a multimedia project that traced the formerly enslaved who temporarily received land after the Civil War to their living descendants. Wrote a narrative story for Mother Jones and reported an hour-long radio episode for Reveal at CIR.

NOVEMBER 2018 - OCTOBER 2020

**Stateline at Pew Charitable Trusts**, Washington, D.C. - *Staff writer, rural issues*

- Traveled the U.S. to track trends in state policy and tell deeply reported stories on rural America, including the effects of the Trump trade war with China, how midwives could solve maternal mortality problems, the hemp boom and bust, and the impacts of devastating flooding along the Missouri River.
- Regularly republished in McClatchy and Tribune news wires.

MAY 2016 - NOVEMBER 2018

**Current: News for People in Public Media**, Takoma Park, Md. - *Associate editor, funding and innovation*

- Broke national news on sexual harassment allegations against a top investigative reporter at NPR.
- Produced an investigation focused on newsroom culture problems at NPR affiliate in Austin, Texas, which contributed to changes in the organization's top leadership.
- Analyzed five years of staff data and wrote the lead story for a special issue focused on diversity at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the slowdown in minority advancement among top leadership.

JANUARY 2008 - PRESENT

**Freelance Journalist and Editor**

- Copy-edited and fact-checked publications for the Committee to Protect Journalists.
- Produced stories for several publications, including Fort Lauderdale Magazine, International Business Times and Smith College Alumnae Quarterly.

- Fact-checked “[Here I Am: The Story of Tim Hetherington, War Photographer](#)” (Grove Atlantic).

SEPTEMBER 2008 - JULY 2010

**The Seattle Times**, Seattle, Wa. - *News producer*

- Managed the [SeattleTimes.com](#) homepage and business page in collaboration with the newsroom and provided production support during major breaking news events. Facilitated live chats with readers.

OCTOBER 2006 - OCTOBER 2007

**The Boston Globe**, Boston, Mass. - *Reporter*

- Assigned to cover crime, courts, education and city and state politics during yearlong program.

## Education

**London School of Economics and Political Science**, London, United Kingdom - *Master of Science, merit; Media, Communication & Development*

**U.S. Fulbright Scholar**, Gaborone, Botswana - *Research, Journalism*

**Smith College**, Northampton, Mass. - *Bachelor of Arts, cum laude; American Studies & Government*

## Continuing Education

**2024, LinkedIn Learning Certificate in Technical Program Management**

**2022, Dale Carnegie Course**, Leadership and public speaking

**2019, Transom Traveling (Audio) Workshop**

**2018, Data-driven Journalism Graduate Course**, American University

**2017, ProPublica Data Institute**, Data, design and code for journalists

## Professional Affiliations

**Investigative Reporters and Editors** (2021-2023 member of training committee and 2022 awards screener)

**Smith College** (current member of professional advisory board for Journalism concentration)

**National Association of Black Journalists** (2015-2016 treasurer of NABJ-South Florida)

**National Association of Hispanic Journalists**

## Selected Honors and Awards

2024, [Sidney Hillman Foundation Award](#)

2024, [Salute to Excellence Award](#), Interactive: Feature, National Association of Black Journalists

2024, [North American Agricultural Journalists Writing Award](#), 2nd place, Special Projects

2024, [Best in Business](#), Medium Division, Banking/Finance, Society for Advancing Business Editing & Writing

2022, [Excellence in Health Care Journalism](#), 2nd place, Health Policy, Association of Health Care Journalists

2021, [McGraw Fellowship for Business Journalism](#) fellow

2021, [Field Trips to the Future Masterminds Cohort](#), Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

2019, [Innovations in Food and Agriculture program](#) participant, National Press Foundation

2018, Best of Nonprofit News, Recognized for #MeToo coverage, Institute for Nonprofit News

2014, [Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo reporting fellowship](#), International Women’s Media Foundation

2010, [Pulitzer Prize in Breaking News Reporting](#), Seattle Times staff

References available upon request.