

MEGAN ELIZABETH CHAO
Documentary Producer and Picture Editor
Adjunct Faculty at USC Annenberg

CREDITS

- 2022 – present** **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Framed: The Case of Kit Martin* (working title). A two-hour special that investigates a 2014 triple homicide cold case that wrongfully landed Christian Kit Martin in prison for life. A decorated war veteran framed by an ex-wife with a history of destroying men, newly uncovered evidence may be what sets him free. In pre-production.
- 2022 – present** **DIRECTED BY, EDITOR.** *Two Equal Sons* (working title). A feature documentary that explores surrogacy, reproductive and family rights, and love across borders in the LGBTQ+ community, through one family's heart wrenching story. In pre-production, in conjunction with a book by Dr. Nancy Segal, slated for publication in spring 2023.
- 2021 – present** **CO-CREATOR, SUPERVISING PRODUCER.** *The Iterative Eden Project* (working title). With exclusive access to a newly formed interdisciplinary science team, this innovative multi-platform environmental science series tackles planetary issues with groundbreaking methodologies. In production.
- 2019 – 2020** **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Saint Patrick's Greatest Gift.* Pilot episode for a historical docu-series based on the NYT bestselling book series by Thomas Cahill, *The Hinges of History.* CuriosityStream.
- 2011 – 2020** **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, EDITED BY.** *Murder to Mercy: The Cyntoia Brown Story.* A feature documentary that revisits the case of Cyntoia Brown, a Tennessee juvenile who was sentenced to life in prison at 16. Because of legislative and clemency efforts on behalf of a pro bono legal team, she walked out of prison in August 2019. Netflix Original Documentary, Top 10 for the first two weeks of release.
- 2018 – 2019** **PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Life on the Line: EMS 50th.* A documentary short that explores the 50 year history of the Los Angeles County Fire Department's paramedic program.
- 2017 – 2018** **PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *The Earliest Americans.* A new discovery from paleontologists and archaeologists from the San Diego Natural History Museum challenges existing theories about who the first Americans were, and when they got here. CuriosityStream.
- 2016 – 2017** **PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Sentencing Children.* A web series continuation of the acclaimed documentary, *Me Facing Life: Cyntoia's Story*, as a legal team takes on juvenile justice reform in the state of Tennessee. ITVS – Independent Lens and *The Tennessean*. Runner-up for a Webby Award in the documentary series category.
- 2016 – 2017** **PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *The Hunt for Dark Matter.* A documentary that follows a team of scientists who are developing new technology to find dark matter. CuriosityStream.
- 2015 – 2016** **PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Curious Minds: Conscious Capitalism.* A documentary special about a new movement in capitalism and its effects on society. CuriosityStream.
- 2012 – 2015** **CONTRIBUTING PRODUCER.** *Big Bang Machine.* A documentary about the discovery of the elusive Higgs Boson particle at CERN. PBS | NOVA.

- 2013 – 2014** **PRODUCER, EDITOR, ADD’L CINEMATOGRAPHY.** *Perfecting Flight: Bob Hoover.* Feature documentary about the legendary aviator. Narrated by Harrison Ford. Premiere at Paramount Studios. Won a Bronze Telly Award.
- 2012 – 2014** **CONSULTING EDITOR.** *Bite Size.* Feature documentary that looks at the nation’s childhood obesity epidemic. Theatrical and film festival run.
- 2011 – 2012** **PRODUCER, EDITOR, ADD’L CINEMATOGRAPHY.** *Chasing Speed: Leslie Porterfield.* Documentary about Leslie Porterfield, the world’s fastest woman on a motorcycle and her quest for more speed. Won two Silver Telly Awards. Discovery | Velocity.
- 2011 – 2012** **DIRECTOR, CINEMATOGRAPHER.** *Go Public: A Day in the Life of PUSD.* Feature documentary about a day in the Pasadena Unified School District. PBS and film festivals.
- 2009 – 2011** **PRODUCTION COORDINATOR, RESEARCHER.** *Me Facing Life: Cyntoia’s Story.* Award-winning documentary about Cyntoia Brown, a Tennessee youth who committed murder at the age of 16 and is now serving life in prison. PBS | Independent Lens.
- 2009 – 2010** **RESEARCHER.** *Brace for Impact: The Chesley B. Sullenberger Story.* Documentary about the pilot of US Airways Flight 1549 and his historic landing on the Hudson River in 2009. Narrated by Harrison Ford. TLC and Discovery Channel.

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

- 2015 – present** **VICE PRESIDENT, DEVELOPMENT + PRODUCTION, Daniel H. Birman Productions, Inc.** Leads creative and production teams to develop show concepts, craft proposals, pitch to networks and deliver shows to clients. Maintains relationships with network executives and company clientele, and manages overall corporate strategy.
- 2015 – present** **SUPERVISING PRODUCER + LEAD EDITOR, Daniel H. Birman Productions, Inc.** Field producer with camera experience (Sony FS-5 and FS-7 proficient). Also writes scripts and edits (Avid, Final Cut Pro and Adobe Premiere Pro proficient).
- 2012 – 2015** **DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT, Daniel H. Birman Productions, Inc.**
- 2012 – 2015** **PRODUCER + EDITOR, Daniel H. Birman Productions, Inc.**
- 2009 – 2011** **RESEARCHER + PRODUCTION COORDINATOR, Daniel H. Birman Productions, Inc.**
- 2008 – 2009** **PROGRAM COORDINATOR, USC Annenberg / California Endowment Health Journalism Fellowships Program.**
- 2007 – 2008** **NEWS PRODUCTION ASSISTANT, KNX 1070 News Radio (CBS Radio).** Collected and edited sound for air and conducted phone interviews for anchors. Part of the award-winning team coverage for the 2007 Malibu fires.
- 2007** **LEAD REPORTER, The National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine / Keck Futures Initiative on Human Healthspan.** Served as lead mentor and writer to science writing students. Published keynote article in National Academies magazine, *In Focus*.
- 2006** **REPORTER, The National Academies of Science, Medicine and Engineering / Keck Futures Initiative on Smart Prosthetics.**

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2011 – present** **ADJUNCT FACULTY, University of Southern California**, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. Faculty adviser, line producer and online editor for *Impact*, the school's award-winning documentary series, which airs weekly on Spectrum News 1, the first 24/7 news channel in southern California.
- 2010 – 2011** **BROADCAST PRODUCTION COACH, University of Southern California**, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- 2008** **MASTER OF ARTS**, Broadcast Journalism
University of Southern California
- Recipient of the Victoria Hall Scholarship for Science Reporting
 - Secretary for the Graduate Student Journalism Association
- 2006** **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**, Biology
BACHELOR OF ARTS, Creative Writing, Emphasis in Nonfiction
University of California at Riverside

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2022 – present** **PRODUCER'S COUNCIL MEMBER, Producer's Guild of America.**
- 2022** **TELEVISION ACADEMY HONORS, Selection Committee, Television Academy.**
- 2022 – present** **MENTOR – GEMS PROGRAM (Grooming Exceptional Minds for Success), USC Marshall School of Business.** Inaugural leadership program for top performing students.
- 2021 – present** **VICE CHAIR – CURRICULUM COMMITTEE + MEMBER – COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE, USC Asian Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Association (APIFSA).**
- 2019 – present** **PRIMETIME EMMYS – EXCEPTIONAL MERIT FOR DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING, Blue Ribbon Committee, Television Academy.**
- 2019 – present** **PEER GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING, Television Academy.**
- 2018 – 2020** **BOARD MEMBER, USC Alumni Club of Los Angeles.** Vice President of Marketing.
- 2011 – present** **NATIONAL ACTIVE MEMBER – DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING, Television Academy.**
- 2008 – present** **MEMBER, International Documentary Association.**
- 2006 – present** **MEMBER, Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).**
- 2005 – present** **MEMBER, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).**

OTHER PUBLICATIONS + SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- 2022** **PANEL MODERATOR AND HOST, *What's in a Name?: Exploring Identities, Allyship and Cross-Racial Relations*.** USC APIFSA and MOB present a panel discussion to explore the complexities of race, identity and representation surrounding the Black and Asian communities. Panelists include Drs. Viet Thanh Nguyen, Adrian De Leon, Sarah Townsend, and Erika V. Hall.
- 2021** **GUEST LECTURE** on documentary production and editing. USC Annenberg for Sasha Anawalt's arts journalism class.
- 2019** **GUEST LECTURE** on documentary as a powerful medium for visual storytelling. USC Annenberg for Doe Mayer's CMGT 588 course.
- 2019** **PLENARY SESSION PANELIST** on Science Video. Southern California Science Writing Symposium.
- 2018** **CONSULTING PRODUCER, EDITOR,** Land and Water Conservation Fund awareness campaign to prevent discontinuing a federal program that pays for green spaces and national parks. The Wilderness Society.
- 2015** **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, EDITOR,** BYD's Electric Bus program, highlighting the world's largest manufacturer of batteries and the EV market. Make Over Earth, Inc.
- 2015** **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, ONLINE EDITOR,** *How KPCC worked to grow its Latino audience in Los Angeles.* Video that explores a case study by the Latino Public Radio Consortium. Current.org.
- 2012** **PRODUCER, EDITOR,** City of Riverside Electric Vehicle Outreach program. Web series about EV initiatives in a region challenged with air pollution. Make Over Earth, Inc.
- 2008** **AUTHOR,** *Aging, Longevity and 'Healthspan'*, The National Academies of Science, Medicine and Engineering's joint publication, *In Focus* magazine.
- 2008** **KEYNOTE AUTHOR,** *The Future of Human Healthspan: Demography, Evolution, Medicine and Bioengineering*, The National Academies of Science, Medicine and Engineering.
- 2007** **AUTHOR,** *Brain Interfacing with Materials: Recording and Stimulation Electrodes*, The National Academies of Science, Medicine and Engineering.
- 2005** **CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR,** *An Identity Twice Found: An Autobiography, American Identities: California Short Stories of Multiple Ancestries.* Edited with an introduction by Dr. Eliud Martinez.