

**MEGAN ELIZABETH CHAO**  
Documentary Producer and Picture Editor  
Part-Time Lecturer at USC Annenberg

**CREDITS**

- 2022 – present**     **DIRECTED BY, EDITOR.** *Every 73 Seconds* (working title). A feature documentary about street harassment and the understated social hierarchy through the lens of female runners. *In pre-production.*
- 2021 – present**     **EXECUTIVE PRODUCER (Showrunner), EDITOR.** *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, with partners Microsoft, NVIDIA and CERN.
- 2019 – 2020**        **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Saint Patrick's Greatest Gift.* Pilot episode for a historical documentary series based on the NYT bestselling book series by Thomas Cahill, *The Hinges of History.* CuriosityStream.
- 2018 – present**    **SERIES PRODUCER, EDITOR, ONLINE EDITOR.** *Impact.* An award-winning documentary series featuring more than 400 stories from around the world. The series tackles a number of topics including character profiles, social issues, quirky hobbies and animal rights. 62 episodes over 5 seasons broadcast weekly on Spectrum News 1 in Los Angeles, with national distribution through Spectrum Networks/Charter Communications to more than 30 million viewers. *Season 6 currently in production.*
- 2011 – 2020**        **SUPERVISING PRODUCER, EDITED BY.** *Murder to Mercy: The Cyntoia Brown Story.* A feature documentary that presents a comprehensive look at the case of Cyntoia Brown, a Tennessee juvenile who received a life sentence at the age of 16 for murder. Because of familial reveals, legislative and clemency efforts on behalf of a *pro bono* legal team, she was released early from prison at the age of 30. Netflix Original Documentary, Top 10 for the first two weeks of release.
- 2018 – 2019**        **PRODUCER, EDITOR.** *Life on the Line: EMS 50<sup>th</sup>.* 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, distributed internationally by The Cinema Guild. Was part of the ITVS Community Cinema Program and the Women and Girls Lead campaign. Adapted into curricula for the Girl Scouts.
- 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**      **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**      **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 The National Academies magazine, *In Focus.*
- 2006**                **REPORTER, The National Academies of Science, Medicine and Engineering / Keck Futures Initiative on Smart Prosthetics.**

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022 – present**     **PART-TIME LECTURER, 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.
- 2011 – 2022**     **ADJUNCT FACULTY, University of Southern California**, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.
- 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**
- 2006**             **BACHELOR OF SCIENCE**, Biology  
**BACHELOR OF ARTS**, Creative Writing, Emphasis in Nonfiction  
**University of California at Riverside**

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2023 – present**     **HYPHENATE ACTIVE MEMBER – DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING AND PICTURE EDITORS**, Television Academy.
- 2023 – present**     **CHAIR – DOCUMENTARY AND NONFICTION COMMITTEE**, Producers Guild of America.
- 2023 – present**     **CHAIR-ELECT, USC Asian Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Association (APIFSA).**
- 2023 – present**     **BOARD OF GOVERNORS – DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING**, Television Academy. Member of the Bylaws Committee, Activities Committee, and AI Task Force. Chair of the Generative AI Impact on Emmy Rules Ad Hoc Group.
- 2022 – present**     **PRODUCER'S COUNCIL MEMBER, Producers Guild of America.** Member of the AAPI Working Group and the Documentary and Nonfiction Committee.
- 2022**                **TELEVISION ACADEMY HONORS**, Selection Committee, Television Academy.
- 2021 – 2023**        **VICE CHAIR – CURRICULUM COMMITTEE + MEMBER – COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE**, USC Asian Pacific Islander Faculty and Staff Association (APIFSA).
- 2019 – 2022**        **PEER GROUP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING**, Television Academy.
- 2018 – 2020**        **BOARD MEMBER, USC Alumni Club of Los Angeles.** Vice President of Marketing.
- 2010 – present**     **NATIONAL ACTIVE MEMBER – DOCUMENTARY PROGRAMMING**, Television Academy.
- 2008 – present**     **MEMBER, International Documentary Association.**

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS + SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

- 2023**            **PANELIST, National Association for Broadcasters (NAB) 2023: A Production Model for Sustainability: Media and Tech Come Together.** Megan Chao and Jimmy Parker-Barratt from Microsoft discuss their unique new partnership for a sustainability documentary series.
- 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 the discontinuation of a federal program that pays for green spaces and national parks. Series of six videos for 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.
- 2011**            **GUEST LECTURE** on documentary as a form of journalism. Santa Monica College and Glendale Community College for Sharyn Obsatz's intro to journalism classes.
- 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.