

Karen J. Coates

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Curriculum Vitae

Professional Experience:

Author: *Cambodia Now: Life in the Wake of War* (McFarland, 2005). An in-depth look at daily life in Cambodia in the aftermath of genocide and war. Research and reporting spanned seven years, beginning with the end of civil war in 1998.

Co-Author: *Pacific Lady: The First Woman to Sail Solo across the World's Largest Ocean* (University of Nebraska Press, 2008), documenting the feats of Sharon Sites Adams, a five-time world-record sailor.

Journalist: 1993-present. Correspondent for *Gourmet Magazine* and contributor to numerous publications worldwide, including *The Christian Science Monitor*, *GlobalPost*, *National Geographic Books*, *GEO Spain*, *National Wildlife*, *Wildlife Conservation*, *Archaeology*, *The Boston Globe*, *Orion*, *DAYS JAPAN*, *Fodor's Travel Guides*, *Kyoto Journal*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, *BBC Wildlife*, *San Jose Mercury News* and *South China Morning Post*. Frequently collaborating with photojournalist Jerry Redfern to document countries after war and societies under oppression, with particular focus on food, environment, health and social issues. Topics include the Khmer Rouge Tribunals, threatened archaeological relics amid widespread logging in Borneo, the aftermath of Asia's tsunamis, East Timor's caves and their role in liberation, human-elephant conflict in Sri Lanka, the fishing culture of Vietnam's Halong Bay, and the farmers who grow the world's hottest chiles in Nagaland.

Journalism trainer: 2006-2009. Designed and taught creative nonfiction writing workshops to professional journalists at the American Center, Yangon, Myanmar, January 2009 and April 2009; and at the Jefferson Center, Mandalay, Myanmar, May 2009. Co-taught four-week print journalism courses organized by the Indochina Media Memorial Foundation (IMMF), October-November 2006, October-November 2008. The courses, conducted in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, covered news and feature reporting, interviewing, story structure, editing and ethics. Duties entailed lecturing on the nuts and bolts of journalism, leading classroom discussions on journalism issues, guiding class field trips for village interviews and coaching individual participants through three drafts of an in-depth news article. Young journalists from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam participated. Courses culminated in editions of the *IMMF Times*, with articles focused on the course theme (*The Changing Role of Women in Asia*, 2006; *Ageing Asia*, 2008).

Classroom co-editor: June 2005, June 2006. IMMF. Coached participants and edited their stories examining migrant labor in Thailand and the future of the Mekong River.

Teacher: 2000-2001. Umpqua Community College (Roseburg, Oregon). Instructed Southeast Asian cooking classes for adults; and journalism courses for kids, which resulted in a class newspaper with each student's story.

Weekend edition co-editor/copy editor: 1998-1999. *The Cambodia Daily* (Phnom Penh). Wrote in-depth stories on the 1998 national elections, political riots, emerging democracy, pollution and its health effects, Khmer-Vietnamese relations, international border crossings and environmental

conservation. Designed, edited and helped launch the paper's Weekend edition. Copy-edited daily editions of the paper, edited photo stories and managed the paper's computer system.

Editorial associate: 1996. *Women of Vietnam Review* (Hanoi). Helped edit and translate for the English-language magazine. Led workshops in reporting, writing, editing and design. Developed ideas to boost circulation.

English teacher: 1996. Vietnam Women's Museum (Hanoi). Taught English to museum guides and translated display descriptions.

Features editor/reporter: 1994-1995. *The News-Record* (Gillette, Wyoming). Wrote, edited and designed the Sunday Living section. Covered the county land board, wrote investigative pieces and daily news stories.

Co-editor/designer: 1994. Native News Honors Project, The University of Montana School of Journalism. Designed photo stories, created maps and helped edit the annual publication, which examines critical issues on Montana's seven American Indian reservations.

Reporting intern: 1993. *The Albuquerque Tribune*. Wrote general-assignment stories under three daily deadlines. Covered the hantavirus outbreak.

Education:

Master of Science: University of Oregon, June 1997. Independent Studies: Individualized Program; self-designed in journalism, anthropology, international studies.

Graduate courses: Vietnam National University, Fall 1996. Language, history, culture.

Bachelor of Arts: University of Montana, December 1993. Journalism, cultural anthropology. Graduated in the Honors College.

Special Projects:

An Eternal Harvest: A long-term independent project with Jerry Redfern, documenting the devastating effects of unexploded ordnance (UXO) remaining in Laos decades after the US bombing campaign. UXO contaminates at least 25 percent of all Lao villages, and every week people die—mostly children and farmers working in their fields. Accidents are increasing amid a booming scrap-metal trade and a growing population that is pushing villagers onto uncleared lands.

Volunteerism: Editing and English translation for photojournalism publications such as the online documentary magazine pdfX12; *Re: War*, an international print magazine; and *Smile in Despair: Stories from a Cambodian AIDS Ward*, a book by photojournalist Masaru Goto. Consultant to *Women of Vietnam Review*, 1999-2000.

Public presentations: Numerous *Cambodia Now* readings and presentations in the United States and Asia. "An Eternal Harvest," a public discussion presented with Jerry Redfern's slide show documenting the effects of UXO in Laos, Le Popil Gallery, Phnom Penh, February 2007. Lecture on sustainable development, "Our Sustainable Future: What Can the Media Do?" sponsored by Angkatan Zaman Mansang and UNESCO, Sarawak, June 2006. Slide show and discussions on Cambodia, presented with Jerry Redfern at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, University of

Wisconsin, Madison, November 2005. Keynote lecture, "The Asian Experience," University of Idaho conference, April 2001.

Correspondents: Business plan and prototype magazine examining issues from worldwide cultural perspectives. Researched the magazine industry, reported stories and designed a 74-page issue on AIDS as the final project for a master's degree from the University of Oregon.

Native News Honors Project: Reported on American Indians who drink Lysol, the Northern Cheyenne fight for a high school, alternative education and suicide. Articles appeared in two editions of the annual publication.

Honors:

August Derleth Nonfiction Book Award, for *Cambodia Now*, 2006

Kay Levin Award in Short Nonfiction, for the essay, "Painting Cambodia for Judy," 2006

Finalist, Livingston Awards for Young Journalists, international reporting, 2006

Semi-finalist, William Faulkner-William Wisdom Creative Writing Competition, essay, 2006

Semi-finalist, Gulf Coast Prize, creative nonfiction, 2006

Nominee, Pushcart Prize, for the essay, "Painting Cambodia for Judy," published in *Kyoto Journal* #61, 2005

AsiaSource Asia Experts, listed in the Asia Society's online resource guide to Cambodia and Southeast Asia experts

Finalist, William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition, essay, 2003

Finalist, Lange-Taylor Prize for Documentary Studies, 2003

Council for Wisconsin Writers award in short nonfiction, 2003

Oregon Literary Fellowship to Women Writers, for research related to *Cambodia Now*, 2000

Who's Who in America, numerous years and listings

UO Center for Asian and Pacific Studies Award, for work in Vietnam, 1997

Oregon Global Graduates Award, \$5,000 for work with *Women of Vietnam Review*, 1996

Newswriting and Editing Fellowship, Poynter Institute for Media Studies, 1993

Numerous journalism and writing awards from **Willamette Writers, Quincy Writers Guild, Writers' Journal, Wyoming Press Association, William Randolph Hearst Foundation, Society of Professional Journalists** and other groups