



Margaret Sessa-Hawkins

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EDUCATION

University of Glasgow; MLitt Creative Writing (Honors) — December '13

University of Edinburgh; MSc International Development — December '12

University of Virginia; Dual BA English & Spanish Literature — May '08

EXPERIENCE

Political Nonprofit Reporter, MapLight; Berkeley, CA — March '16 - present

Research and report on all aspects of 501c nonprofit or “dark money” political contributions. Manage content and social media for ‘Dark Money Watch’, MapLight’s web project focusing on undisclosed political contributions. Expert on the 990 tax form. Routinely retweeted by Jane Mayer.

Digital Reporting Fellowship, PBS NewsHour; Arlington, VA — June '15 - December '15

Edited and wrote for NewsHour website. Helped manage social media accounts. Led semi-weekly twitter chats. In last two months of fellowship, all pieces I wrote but one were in the website’s top-10 most-read.

News/Production Associate, WPFW 89.3; Washington D.C. — July '14 - June '15

Wrote, anchored, and produced news segments and shows of interest to D.C. residents. Reported live on the 2014 midterm elections, and anchored Pacifica’s national broadcast of the Justice for All March.

Reporter, MarylandReporter.com; Annapolis, Md — Feb - July '14

Beat reporter for the Maryland legislature. Wrote features and articles on all aspects of Maryland politics including implementation of Common Core, raising the minimum wage, and decriminalizing marijuana.

Intern, BBC World Service; London, U.K. — May - June '13

Responsible for conducting research into show topics and guests for *The Forum*. Wrote up summaries of guests’ research and helped producers craft interview questions. Managed the show’s online presence.

Education Volunteer, Peace Corps; Malawi — Sept '08 - May '11

Taught English at a village secondary school. Organized construction of a teacher’s house, ran a week-long wildlife camp, and was treasurer of Peace Corps Malawi’s Gender and Development committee.

AWARDS

Awarded 2015/16 Undiscovered Voices scholarship from The Writer’s Center, Washington DC
Received a grant to attend a February 2016 writing residency at the Vermont Studio Center
Won special merit in 2014, second place in 2012 Scottish National Gallery’s writing competition
Shortlisted for the 2013 Bridport Prize for fiction

SKILLS

Computer: Sound editing including Adobe Audition; Indesign, Photoshop, Excel, basic HTML

Language: Fluent in Spanish, conversational in Italian, Chitumbuka (Malawi), know basic isiXhosa