

# Sachi Cunningham

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## WORK EXPERIENCE

- Present **Asst. Professor of Journalism SFSU** San Francisco  
Tenure track Professor of undergraduate digital media courses at San Francisco State University.
- Present **Prod./Dir./Camera/Editor Freelance** San Francisco  
Currently editing two documentary projects on the environment and the arts: [CRUTCH](#), a profile of disabled break-dancer and skateboarder Bill Shannon, funding and support from IFP, the Vidda Foundation, SF Film Arts Foundation and the Tylenol Corporation, and [Give a Dam](#), a profile of Dick Goin, an 84-year-old fisherman who catalyzed the largest dam removal in US History on the Elwha River in Washington State, funding and support from the Heinz Foundation, Patagonia, The Sunlight Fund, Eco Venao and the Blue Ocean Institute.
- 2014 **Camera Operator FRONTLINE** Iraq  
Second camera with DP Scott Anger and Correspondent Martin Smith on location in Baghdad and Erbil, Iraq for the FRONTLINE documentary, *The Rise of ISIS* airing Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> on PBS.
- 2014 **Director/Camera/Editor Freelance** Portugal  
[Endless Ocean](#) is a bi-lingual Portugese/English 22-minute documentary about the first family of Azorean surfers and a big wave surf expedition in the islands off of Portugal. Premiering at the Surf at Lisbon Film Festival in Portugal in Oct. 2014.
- 2014 **Cinematographer Qatar TV** San Francisco  
Contributing cinematographer for documentary about artist Richard Serra by Charlotte Buchen.
- 2014 **Camera/Editor GAP Foundation** San Francisco  
Ongoing production work for GAP internal video communications.
- 2014 **Prod./Camera/Editor Duetto Research** San Francisco  
Conceived, produced, directed, shot and edited a series of videos for a revenue management start up.
- 2014 **Video Journalist NYTimes Magazine** Felicity, CA  
Freelance video journalist for [A Journey to the Center of the World](#) for the February Voyages Issue.
- 2014 **Cinematographer CIR/FRONTLINE** Fresno, CA  
Freelance camera operator for follow up story to *Rape in the Fields*, currently in production with the Center for Investigative Reporting and FRONTLINE.

2013	<b>Director/Camera/Editor</b>	<b>Wild Ones</b>	San Francisco
	Created a <a href="#">video "trailer"</a> for NY Times Magazine writer Jon Moollem's debut book, <i>Wild Ones: A Sometimes Dismaying, Weirdly Reassuring Story About Looking at People Looking at Animals in America</i> .		
2012	<b>Director/Camera/Editor</b>	<b>Save the Waves</b>	Chile
	Directed, shot and edited <a href="#">Unidos Por Aguas Limpias</a> a video PSA for Save the Waves Coalition about a nation wide beach clean-up. Video screened at the 2012 Santiago Adventure Film Festival, 2012 Santa Cruz film Festival, 2012 Mill Valley Surf Film Festival and 2012 Save the Waves Film Festival.		
2011-12	<b>Multimedia Journalist</b>	<b>Freelance</b>	The Americas
	Drove from California through Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile to research <i>The Lighthouse Project</i> , a citizen journalism coastal storytelling project currently in development. Also filed photo stories from El Salvador for KQED's <i>The California Report</i> about a voluntourism school building project and for <a href="#">PRI's The World</a> about shipping a truck across the Darien Gap.		
2011	<b>Cinematographer</b>	<b>Speedo USA</b>	Los Angeles
	Camera operator for interviews and underwater footage of the US Olympic swimming team for Speedo's <a href="#">Paceclub</a> online campaign, Produced by LBi/Syrup communications agency.		
2010-11	<b>Cinematographer</b>	<b>Current TV</b>	Los Angeles
	Co-producer, videographer and photographer for <i>Sushi to Slaughter</i> , an hour-long documentary about the blue fin tuna trade for the news documentary series <i>Vanguard</i> . The story was a co-production with the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> and included a print article and photo essay in the <i>LA Times</i> Food section broadsheet and online.		
2008-2011	<b>Multimedia Journalist</b>	<b>The Los Angeles Times</b>	Los Angeles
	Reported, produced, shot, edited and wrote news and entertainment videos, photos and print stories for the Los Angeles Times web site and broadsheet. Over 100 stories include coverage of the Democratic National Convention, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the historic El Niño big wave season of 2010. Also responsible for fostering the first joint production / multiple platform stories to be reported by the <i>LA Times</i> in conjunction with KQED radio's <i>California Report</i> , the <i>Center for Investigative Reporting</i> and <i>Current TV</i> .		
2008	<b>Prod./Dir./Camera/Editor</b>	<b>Freelance</b>	Tahiti and Chile
	Produced, directed, shot and edited two environmental documentary projects: <b>All Points South</b> investigating pulp pollution along the coast of Chile for the SF based non- profit Save the Waves Coalition and <b>Eating the Ocean</b> , an investigation of the nutritional benefits of eating fish in French Polynesia, narrated by Celine Cousteau.		
2004-2007	<b>Multimedia Journalist</b>	<b>PBS FRONTLINE/World</b>	Berkeley, CA
	Hired as an Associate Producer for the international news documentary broadcast program and web site while a graduate student at UC Berkeley, subsequently hired as a staff Senior Associate Producer and eventually reported, produced, shot, wrote and edited stories for over 100 episodes for the web site and broadcast. Instrumental in the conception, branding, curating and production of the web site's award winning photo and video series <i>Rough Cuts</i> and <i>Flash Point</i> . Responsibilities included managing a staff of Executive Producers, Editors, Producers and Associate Producers.		

Reporter/Producer/Camera/Editor/Sound credits include:

**Dubai: Night Secrets:** Investigation of the sex industry in Dubai

**Nepal: A Girl's Life:** Examination of the education program Room to Read

**Cambodia: Silk Grandmothers:** Profile of a Japanese textile social entrepreneur

**Japan & China: The Unforgotten War:** Exploration of Japan/China relations

**Puerto Rico: Samurai Surfers:** Battle by local surfers to save their wave

**Kashmir: The Road to Peace:** Road trip examining the politics of Indian held Kashmir

**China: Women's Kingdom:** Documentary about a matriarchy culture in rural China **Afghanistan:**

**Weight of the World:** A look at weight lifters during the first Presidential election

2006-2007 **Field Producer**  
**Camera Operator** **PBS FRONTLINE** Berkeley, CA

**News Wars: What's Happening to the News**

Reported, set up interviews, filmed, wrote, edited and assisted with the broadcast production and web materials for the final episode of a four part series examining the state of the news industry in a rapidly changing economy and technology revolution. Produced and reported by Lowell Bergman and Stephen Talbot.

Additional FRONTLINE camera operator credits include:

**News Wars: Secrets, Sources & Spin:** Second of the four part media series

**The Enemy Within:** A case study of America's response to home grown terrorism

**A Dangerous Business Revisited:** Examination of worker safety at McWane Inc.

2006-2007 **Camera Operator** **Freelance** SF and Dubai

**The Price of Sex:** hour long documentary about sex trafficking, Directed by Mimi Chakarova

**Life 2.0:** Feature length documentary about people who's lives are dramatically changed by a virtual world, Directed by Jason Spingarn-Koff

2006 **Camera/Editor/Host** **The Discovery Channel** Austin, TX

Host, camera and editor of *Not Your Average Travel Guide*, an hour-long travelogue

## GUEST LECTURER

University of California at Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism

University of Southern California Annenberg School of Journalism

Brooks Institute of Photography

Occidental College

San Francisco Press Photographers Association

Asian American Journalist's Association

## PUBLICATIONS

Photography and writing featured in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Huffington Post*, *Surfer's Path*, *Surfer*, *Surfing Magazine*, *Surf Life for Women*, various *Surfrider Foundation* publications, *Bust*, and *Bad Idea Magazine*.

## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley**, Graduate School of Journalism, MJ 2005

**Brown University**, Providence, RI, BA History, December 1994

*University Scholar, National Scholar* 1990-94

*Varsity swimming and water polo* 1990-94

*Co-founder and President, Brown Organization of Multi-racial and Bi-racial Students*

Additional course work:

**Rhode Island School of Design**, 1990-1994, various courses in film and graphic design

**UCLA Extension**, 1999, course in photography

**San Francisco State, College of Extended Learning**, 2004, course in documentary production

Workshops:

Bob Elfstrom Lighting Workshop, San Francisco, 2014

Grant Training Center Workshop, UC Berkeley, 2014

Introduction to Infographics and Data Visualization, Knight Center at UC Berkeley, 2013

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Online News Association

Asian American Journalists Association

## SKILLS

Producing, directing, writing, shooting and editing multi platform visual stories, operating equipment including the Canon C300, 5DM3, 5DM2, Sony XD Cam and a variety of Sony, Canon and Panasonic HD cameras. Proficient with editing programs Adobe Premiere, Final Cut Pro and Avid. Additional software and programming skills in Photoshop, Illustrator, Sound Track Pro, HTML and various blogging platforms. Conversational Japanese and some Spanish.

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS AND CERTIFICATES

### 2013

- **Presidential Award**, San Francisco State University

Awarded semester leave in Spring 2015 to complete the edit of the feature length documentary, *CRUTCH*

- **Longmore Fellow**, Longmore Institute on Disability, San Francisco State University

Awarded two semesters of course leave for the development and production of a video class that produced oral histories of disability right activists for *Patient No More!*, a permanent museum exhibit celebrating the 504 Protests and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act

### 2012

- **Finalist, Seoul Green Film Festival**, for *Eating the Ocean*

### 2011

- **Online Journalist of the Year, Finalist**, Los Angeles Press Club, Southern California Journalism Awards

- **Online News/Investigative Award, 2nd Place**, Los Angeles Press Club, Southern California Journalism Awards for LA Times [They've Struck Oil But They're Not Rich](#)

- **POYi Pictures of the Year International 2nd Place Award** for LA Times *They've Struck Oil But They're Not Rich* (Impact 2011 – stories from Haiti earthquake and the BP oil spill)

- **Best of the West Journalism Contest, Video Storytelling, 3rd Place**, for LA Times *They've Struck Oil But They're Not Rich*

- **South Asian Journalists Association, Finalist, Outstanding Story About the Worldwide South Asian**

**Diaspora: All Media** for LA Times *They've Struck Oil But They're Not Rich*

- **Webby Award Finalist** for LA Times [Chasing the Swell](#) (Online film and video, Sports category)

- **Online News Association Award, Video Journalism, Finalist** for LA Times *Chasing the Swell* (Large Market)

- **Associated Press Sports Editors Multimedia Award** for LA Times *Chasing the Swell* (Top 5 large market)

- **Best Not So Short Short Film, New York Surf Film Festival** for LA Times *Chasing the Swell*

### 2010

- **Webby Award Honoree** for LA Times *Garrett McNamara Searches for Big Wave Surf*

- **Most Awesomest Filmmaker Award** from Save the Waves Coalition

- **3rd Place Award, Hawaii Ocean Film Festival** for LA Times *They've Struck Oil But They're Not Rich*

### 2009

- **Los Angeles Times Editorial Award for Video** (general portfolio)

- **Los Angeles Times Editorial Award for Multimedia** for *California's War Dead* (Videographer)

- **Best Short Film, NY Surf Film Festival** for *All Points South* (Produced by Save the Waves Coalition, Director,

Cinematographer and Editor)

**2008**

- **Webby Award** for FRONTLINE/World *Dubai: Night Secrets* (People's Voice Winner, Online Film and Video, News and Documentary: Individual Episode, Co- Producer and Videographer)
- **Emmy Nomination** for FRONTLINE/World *Dubai: Night Secrets* (New Approaches to News and Documentary Programming: Arts, Lifestyle and Culture, Co-Producer and Videographer)
- **Online News Association Award Finalist**, for LA Times *California's War Dead*, Los Angeles Times (Outstanding Use of Digital Technologies, Large Site, Videographer)
- **1st Place Award in New Media** from the Southeast Asian Journalist Association for FRONTLINE/World *Nepal: A Girl's Life*
- **Monthly Clip Award**, National Press Photographers Association for LA Times *Unschooling*

**2007**

- **Emmy Award** for FRONTLINE/World *Saddam's Road to Hell*, (Outstanding Investigative Journalism in a News Magazine, Senior AP)
- **Emmy Award** for FRONTLINE/World *Libya: Out of the Shadow*, (Outstanding Arts, Lifestyle and Culture Programming for Broadband, Senior AP)
- **Mirror Award for Best Investigative Piece** from Syracuse University, FRONTLINE *News Wars* (Field Producer and Camera Operator)
- **Bart Richard Award for Media Criticism** from Penn State for *FRONTLINE: News Wars* (Field Producer and Camera Operator)
- **CINE Golden Eagle Award** for FRONTLINE/World *China: Women's Kingdom* (Videographer, Sound and Associate Producer)

**2006**

- **Student Academy Award, 2nd Place** for FRONTLINE/World *China: Women's Kingdom* (Videographer, Sound and Associate Producer)
- **CINE Golden Eagle Award** for FRONTLINE/World *Afghanistan: Weight of the World* (Sound and Associate Producer)

**2005**

- **1st Place Award in New Media** from the Southeast Asian Journalist Association for FRONTLINE/World *Kashmir: The Road to Peace* (Co-Producer and Videographer)
- **Student Emmy Award** for UC Berkeley *NOW* news magazine show (Co-producer and Videographer for *Little Flower*)
- **Best International Story** from the Surfrider Film Festival for FRONTLINE/World *Puerto Rico: Samurai Surfers*

**2004**

- **FRONTLINE/World Fellowship**, *Kashmir: The Road to Peace* (with Jigar Mehta)
- **FRONTLINE/World Fellowship**, *China: Women's Kingdom* (with Xiaoli Zhou and Brent Huffman)
- **Good News Award** from the Sacramento Chapter of Women in TV and Radio for *CRUTCH*
- **Good News Award** from the Sacramento Chapter of Women in TV and Radio for UC Berkeley student video, *Little Flower*

