

John D. Sutter

Documentary filmmaker and investigative journalist

EXPERIENCE

National Geographic — Explorer

MAY 2019 to PRESENT | WASHINGTON, DC

Directing a documentary series, “Baseline,” that aims to tell the story of the climate crisis beyond a human lifetime.

CNN — Climate Analyst

JULY 2019 to PRESENT | ATLANTA, GA

Shapes CNN’s reporting on the climate emergency through project consulting, column writing and field producing.

UnionDocs — Documentary Fellow

JULY 2019 to PRESENT | BROOKLYN, NY

Selected for a five-week story lab at this center for documentary arts in New York; developed the “Baseline” series.

Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University — Knight Visiting Nieman Fellow

FEBRUARY to APRIL 2019 | CAMBRIDGE, MA

Researched how journalists can better tell stories that last more than a human lifetime, particularly that of the climate crisis.

CNN — Senior Investigative Reporter

AUGUST 2017 - JULY 2019 | ATLANTA, GA

Lead CNN’s investigative coverage of the climate crisis, disaster response and environmental justice issues. This included an investigation into Hurricane Maria’s uncounted deaths that resulted in a government admission that 2,975 died, not 64.

Lawsuit against the Puerto Rico Department of Health forced the release of about 23,000 records related to the storm’s toll.

CNN — Senior Writer / Columnist

JANUARY 2009 - JULY 2017

Created, reported, produced and managed award-winning special

AWARDS

Edward R. Murrow Award for CNN coverage of Hurricane Maria, 2018

Livingston Award for international reporting, 2012; finalist in 2016

ASNE Batten Medal for public service, 2015

Peabody Award for CNN coverage of the Gulf oil spill, 2011; finalist for CNN Puerto Rico coverage, 2018

EMMY nominee, environmental reporting, 2017; new approaches to documentary film, 2012

Online News Association finalist for explanatory reporting, 2017; winner for large feature, 2012; winner for beat reporting, 2010

AAJA Award, multimedia reporting, 2016

SPJ Sigma Delta Chi Award, public service, 2013; non-deadline reporting, 2010

Foreign Press Association media award, 2012

End Violence Against Women International media award, 2015

projects on climate change and social justice issues, including “Two Degrees,” “Change the List” and “Vanishing.”

Field-produced and wrote documentary-length projects.

Led CNN’s coverage of the COP21 climate talks in Paris in 2015.

Investigation into pangolin trafficking in Southeast Asia resulted in that species receiving new protections from CITES in 2016.

“Slavery’s Last Stronghold,” on modern slavery in Mauritania, was praised as a “model of multimedia reporting.”

The Oklahoman — Staff Writer

AUGUST 2005 - JULY 2007; MARCH 2008 - OCTOBER 2008

Reported on environmental issues, city government and mental health. Created an environment-focused podcast and blog.

TRAINING

AKE International — ‘*Surviving Hostile Regions*’ (2011)

Knight Center for Environmental Journalism, Roanoke, Virginia — *Environmental reporting boot camp* (2008)

Digital Development Communications, Antananarivo, Madagascar — *Documentary film intern* (2007)

Knight Digital Media Center, Berkeley, California — *Multimedia training fellow* (2007)

The Poynter Institute, St. Petersburg, Florida — *Post-graduate summer fellow* (2005)

EDUCATION

Emory University, Atlanta — *B.A. in international studies and journalism, co-major* (2005)

NCAA All-American, 1- and 3-meter springboard diving.

IRE Award, multi-platform investigation, 2012

EPPY Award, 2012

NLGJA Al Neuharth award for innovation in investigative reporting for “The county where no one’s gay,” 2014

Great Plains Journalism Award for “Walking the path of a tornado,” 2014

Harold Gilliam Award for Excellence in Environmental Reporting for “My 417-mile journey down the ‘endangered’ river,” 2014

Webby Award, best online video mashup for “Walk in our shoes,” 2010

PROJECTS

[Vanishing](#)

[Two Degrees](#)

[Change the List](#)

[Freedom Project](#)

MEMBERSHIPS

Society of Environmental Journalists (SPJ)

Investigative Reporters & Editors (IRE)

The Association of LGBTQ Journalists (NLGJA)