

Freelance Writer  
Visiting Scholar, Tulane University  
Policy Advisor, Invest in Louisiana

**Research Interests:** Publishing scholarship on environmental challenges facing the Gulf region

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### Books

**Randolph, N.** [\*Muddy Thinking in the Mississippi River Delta: A Call for Reclamation.\*](#)  
University of California Press. Berkeley, CA. February 2024.

**Randolph, N.** *Sustaining Petroleum: Greenwashing Net Zero in Louisiana.* LSU Press. Baton Rouge, La. 2026. *Forthcoming.*

### Chapters

**Randolph, N.** “Pipeline Logics and Culpability: Establishing a Continuum of Harm for Sacrifice Zones.” *Encyclopedia of the Anthropocene*, Second Edition. Elsevier. January 2026.

**Randolph, N.** “The Muddy Underbelly: The Fight for Health, Heritage, and Justice in Louisiana’s Mississippi River Parishes.” Edited Volume: *Mississippi: Soundings on America’s Arterial River*. University Press of Mississippi 2026. *Forthcoming.*

### Essays and Articles:

**Randolph, N.** “The Obligation to Endure: Learning from Our Mother Trees.” Summer 2025. *Country Roads Magazine*.

**Randolph, N.** “Fraying Ties: The Shrimp and Petroleum Festival at 80.” Summer 2025. *Oxford American*.

**Randolph, N.** [“A Legacy of Resistance Lives on in Cancer Alley.”](#) *Yale Climate Connections*. April 9, 2025.

**Randolph, N.** [“Power Surge: The Rising Hunger of AI Data Centers Accelerates the Need for Clean Energy to Meet Demand.”](#) Jan 27, 2025. *DeSmog* and *The Lens Nola*

**Randolph, N.** [“Resilient New Orleans Regains its Stride, Hardly Missing a Beat After Truck Attack.”](#) *Reuters*. Jan. 3, 2025

**Randolph, N.** [“Finding Hope in a Precarious Place.”](#) *New Orleans Advocate Times Picayune*. May 30, 2024.

**Randolph, N.** [“We Need to Reclaim the Muddy Waters of the Gulf Coast from the Climate Crisis.”](#) *Desmog*. May 24, 2024.

**Randolph, N.** [“How federal tax dollars meant to fight climate change could end up boosting Louisiana’s fossil fuel production.”](#) *The Conversation*. March 31, 2024.

**Randolph, N.** ["Industry-backed Carbon Capture won't solve the climate crisis."](#) *New Orleans Advocate Times Picayune*. Dec. 1, 2023.

**Randolph, N.,** Autumn Hannah. ["Capturing Methane would be a win for the state's bottom line and the environment."](#) *New Orleans Advocate Times Picayune*. June 8, 2024.

**Randolph, N.** ["The Katrina Effect and the Ethical Extraction of Louisiana."](#) *Society and Space Magazine*. Oct. 20, 2022.

**Randolph, N.** ["Battered by Hurricanes and Pollution, It Is Time for Louisiana to Imagine Life Beyond Oil."](#) *DeSmog Blog*. Oct. 10, 2020.

Schaberg C., **Randolph, N.** ["Teaching through the Doom."](#) *Inside Higher Ed*. Washington D.C. Jan. 30, 2020. ["Mapping the Environment of Coronavirus: A Lesson Plan,"](#) *The Lens*

**Randolph, N.** ["Can You Say Anthropocene?"](#) *Via Nola Vie*. New Orleans, La. Nov. 1, 2019.

#### Peer reviewed articles:

**Randolph, N.** "Modeling Authority Over a Drowning Coast." *Environmental Politics*. Taylor & Francis. October 6, 2022.

**Randolph, N.** "Muddy Foil: Extraction and Resistance in New Orleans and the Lower Mississippi River Delta." *Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies*. Taylor & Francis. Spring 2021, Vol 18, Issue 1.

**Randolph, N.** "Pipeline Logic and Culpability: Establishing a Continuum of Harm for Sacrifice Zones." *Frontiers in Environmental Science*. Special Topics Issue: "Coastal Cities in a Changing Climate." July 2021. Vol 9.

**Randolph, N.** "License to Extract: How Louisiana's Master Plan for a Sustainable Coast is Sinking It." *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, Fall 2018, Issue 7.2. Winner of the CSA Randy Martin Prize.

**Randolph, N.** "River Activism, "Levees-Only," and the Great Flood of 1927." Special issue on Media History and Democracy, *Media and Communication*, Vol. 6, Issue 1.

## **EDUCATION**

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**PhD, Department of Communication, University of California San Diego, December 2019**  
 Dissertation Title: *Clear as Mud: The Struggle over Louisiana's Disappearing Wetlands*.  
 Committee: Patrick Anderson (Advisor), Valerie Hartouni, Kelly Gates, Angela Booker, Octavio Aburto-Oropeza.

**MJ Graduate School of Journalism, University of California Berkeley, 2002**

**MA Creative Writing, Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI, 2012**

**BA Literature, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA**

## **Awards, Scholarships and Grants**

2022 SIP Award (Supporting Impactful Publications), Tulane University

2021 Studio in the Woods Scholarly Retreat and stipend, Tulane ByWater Institute

2020 "Dissertation of the Year," American Studies Division, National Communication Association (NCA)

2019 Monroe Fellowship Research Grant, for "Rethinking Mud," Center for the Gulf South at Tulane

- 2019 PhD Fellowship Award, for “Ethical Extraction: The Katrina Effect on Drilling the Outer Continental Shelf,” Institute for Practical Ethics at University of California San Diego
- 2016-18 Judith and Neil Morgan Endowed Fellowship for engaging in humanistic research methods to understand pressing societal problems.
- 2018 Randy Martin Prize for Best Student Paper, Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting
- 2017 Institute of Arts & Humanities Dissertation Writing Workshop Award, University of California San Diego
- 2014-18 Graduate Assistantship, University of California San Diego (3 years)
- 2013 Fellowship for Graduate Study, University of California San Diego

### **Book talks and Conference Presentations**

- 2024 “Mississippi River Past and Present,” panel discussion at the Louisiana Book Festival, Baton Rouge, La.
- 2024 *Muddy Thinking* with Alabama Rivers Alliance at [Thank You Books](#), Birmingham, AL.
- 2024 Alabama Rivers Alliance: [Water is Life Zoom Series](#) via Zoom.
- 2024 Octavia Books: Muddy Thinking in the Mississippi Delta: [in conversation with Rebecca Snedeker](#).
- 2024 Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences Annual Conference. “Finding Hope in Precarious Places.” Via Zoom.
- 2021 Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting, “Pipeline Logic,” via Zoom.
- 2019 Society of Social Studies of Science Annual Conference, “(Un)Making the Mississippi River and Louisiana's Coastal Marshes,” New Orleans.
- 2019 Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting, “Muddy Waters: Mapping a Disappearing Delta;” Panel presentation: “Modeling Authority” for Performing Place: the Politics of the Natural, Tulane University.
- 2018 Cultural Studies Association Annual Meeting, “Problematizing Louisiana's Working Coast,” Winner of the Randy Martin Prize for Best Student Paper, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 Dirt: Intersectional Approaches to Messiness, “A Turn to Mud,” Studio for Media Activism and Critical Thought, Ryerson University, Toronto
- 2016 Mid American Studies Association, “Of Mud and Water: Producing the Mississippi,” University of Kansas

### **Advocacy Work**

- 2022-25 Policy Advisor, Invest in Louisiana  
I research fiscal and social impacts of the fossil fuel industry; and participate in an Environmental Defense Fund coalition to decrease methane emissions.
- 2024 Consultant, Louisiana Bucket Brigade.  
Provided research support to assist frontline communities.

### **Academic Appointments**

- 2021-22 Visiting Assistant Professor, Joint appointment with Departments of Communication and English, Tulane University

- Instructor of Record for Media Industries Analysis
  - Instructor of Record for Environmental Writing
- 2020-21 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Tulane University.
- Instructor of Record for Environmental Communication
  - Instructor of Record for Political Communication
  - Instructor of Record for Media and the Public Sphere
  - Instructor of Record for Environmental Journalism
- 2020-21 Summer Enrichment Program, Tulane University
- Instructor of “Environmental Justice in the Anthropocene.”
- Fall 2019 Adjunct Professor, Department of Communication, Tulane University
- Special Topics: “Life and Culture on the Mississippi.”
- 2017-18 Lecturer, Department of Communication, University of California San Diego.
- Special Topics: “News Media Workshop.”
  - Special Topics: “Journalism in a Time of Crisis.”
- 2014-17 Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Communication, University of California San Diego.
- Interpretive Strategies: the political economy of representation through media.
  - Intro to Communication: communication technology, scholarship and theory.
  - Situated Practices: social practices within structural forces of communication .
  - Social Formation: regulatory, political and economic forces behind media and social change.
  - Introduction to Urban Planning, Office of Urban Studies.
- Spring 2013 Adjunct Instructor, Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, MI
- Instructor of Record, English Composition.
- 2012-13 Adjunct Instructor, English Department, Eastern Michigan University
- Instructor of Record, First Year Writing.
- Fall 2010 Teaching Assistant, Department of English, Eastern Michigan University
- Literature and Imaginary Worlds.
- Spring 2010 Teaching Assistant, Dept. of Rhetoric & Composition, San Diego State University
- Freshman Success Initiative.

### **Invited Lectures and Presentations**

- 2024 “Muddy Foil” guest lecture, Tulane School of Architecture, New Orleans.
- 2024 “Muddy Thinking on the Mississippi River” Alabama Rivers Alliance Water is Life Zoom series.
- 2024 Interview on the Louisiana, the Environment, New Orleans, mud, capitalist extraction and grassroots.” Cultural Studies.

- 2021 “Emerging Voices from the Gulf,” symposium by LSU Human Coast Initiative that seeks to elevate people, cultures, and societies into the deliberations and planning on Louisiana’s coastal crisis.
- 2020 “Storytelling and Public Problems: How Publics Imagine Change,” panel presentation and discussion by invitation of University of California San Diego Democracy Lab Project and Department of Communication.
- 2019 “As Ungovernable as Mud: Wetlands, Agriculture, Central Illinois and the Mississippi Watershed,” Future Cities//Future Coasts Speaker Series by invitation of the ByWater Institute as part of the Anthropocene River Campus: Human Delta at Tulane University.
- 2019 “Drill Baby Drill: Katrina Effect and Political Rationality of Extraction,” Department of Communication Studies colloquium, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge
- 2016 “Racialization of Space, Spatialization of Race,” Introduction to Urban Planning, Office of Urban Studies and Planning, University of California San Diego.
- 2015 “The Production of News as Situated Practice,” Department of Communication, University of California San Diego.
- 2014 “The Economy of Surveillance: The Work of Being Watched,” Department of Communication, University of California San Diego

### **Workshop and Seminars**

- 2020 Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning at Tulane, moving to hybrid teaching.
- 2020 Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning at Tulane, Sparking Success: Faculty Development Conference.
- 2020-21 "Braid and Flow," Monthly workshop on the Anthropocene Human Delta, by the Center for the Gulf South at Tulane.
- 2019 "Anthropocene River Campus: The Human Delta," a week-long seminar as part of *Mississippi. An Anthropocene River* initiative of Max Planck Institute and HKW (Haus der Kulturen Der Welt), hosted by The Center for the Gulf South and Tulane ByWater Institute.
- 2016 Science & Technology Studies California Summer Retreat, Marin Headlands, CA.
- 2010 Disquiet Literary Seminar, 2-week workshop and seminar in Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2002 Reporting on China from Shanghai & Hong Kong, University of California Berkeley.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2013 “Fight Song,” *Rain Taxi Review*, Vol 18, No. 3.
- 2013 “Maiden’s Hair,” *Rain Taxi Review*, Vol 18, No. 2.
- 2013 “Shopping for a Better Country,” *Rain Taxi Review*, online Oct. 29, 2013
- 2001 “Debatable Land: Stories from Southeast Asia,” *Time Inc.* Vol 158, No. 8.

### **Professional Societies, Service and Committee Memberships**

- 2022-24 Associate Editor, Journal of the Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences
- 2022-24 Member, Association of Environmental Studies and Sciences
- 2018-22 Cultural Studies Association (CSA)
  - Governing Board Member, 2019-22

- Working Group, Co-Chair, Environment, Space and Place, 2019-21
- Program Committee, 2020-21
- Executive Board Member, 2019-20
- Conference Site Committee, 2018
- 2021 National Communication Association (NCA), Review Committee, Environmental Communication Division
- 2021 Monroe Fellowship Committee, Center for the Gulf South, Tulane University.
- 2021 Ad-hoc reviewer, Communication and Critical/Cultural Studies.
- 2019 Ad-hoc reviewer, Journalism and Mass Communication Educator, peer-reviewed journal.
- 2019-20 Member, Society of Social Studies of Science (4S)
- 2016-17 Member, Mid-American Studies Association
- 2017-18 Advisory Board Member, *The Triton*, Online Student Newspaper, University of California San Diego.
- 2015-16 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Search Committee, Department of Communication, University of California San Diego.
- 2015-15 Graduate Student Representative, CommPlayground, Department of Communication, University of California San Diego.
- 2011 Volunteer at 826Michigan, a nonprofit writing and literacy program that provided in-class support at Roberto Clemente alternative high school
- 1999 Fellow, The Institute of Politics, Loyola University, New Orleans.

### **Certificates**

- 2017 Certificate for Completion of CET Course Design Studio - Staff Education and Development, University of California San Diego.
- 2016 Certificate for Public Speaking - Center for Student Involvement, Communication & Leadership, University of California San Diego.

### **Journalism and Professional Writing**

*Reuters*, Stringer, 2002-2025

- Breaking news and features including national court cases and military trials, political races, hurricanes and wildfires. Louisiana 2019-2025, Southern California 2007-2010, 2013 to Present, Metro Detroit 2010-2013, Louisiana 2002-2006.

*San Diego Business Journal*, Staff Writer, 2008-09

- I wrote about the boom to bust San Diego housing market, controversial real estate projects, urban development initiatives and technology companies.

*City News Service*, Stringer, San Diego, CA, 2007-08

- Breaking news in San Diego involving civil and criminal court cases, crime, the San Diego public schools, and various political recriminations at City Hall.

*Video Business*, Stringer, San Diego, CA, 2007-08

- Features and a weekly column on technology startup initiatives in the Los Angeles studio industry.

*Union Tribune/North County Times*, Staff Writer, Escondido, CA, 2006-07

- Covered local government, housing and land use controversies that often pitted local activists against commercial and residential developers.

*The Advocate*, Staff Writer, Baton Rouge, LA, 2003-06

- Covered the economic and social impact of Hurricane Katrina, as well as state legislative, technology and consumer issues. Traveled to Havana, Cuba for the Louisiana governor's historic trade mission in 2005. Wrote about technology startup efforts, venture capital deals and the Louisiana film industry, which attracted movie productions through a controversial tax credit program.

Mayor's Office of Communication, Head Writer and Speechwriter, New Orleans, 1997-2000

- Responsible for press releases, articles, and the city annual report. Crafted major policy addresses and daily speeches for the mayor and ghost-authored weekly columns. Also, supported critical communication efforts within the community in times of emergency.

*Associated Press*, News Clerk, New Orleans, LA, 1995-97

- Covered New Orleans and Louisiana for the Associated Press Wire Service, including the "Sunday in the South" and "Louisiana Dateline" news packages. Also, wrote breaking news and broadcast stories, and helped on daily "rewrite" for Louisiana-Mississippi wire.

## **Reporting Internships**

*Financial Times*, San Francisco, CA, Summer 2002

- Published international stories on the Bay Area Dot-Com bust, Oakland crime, steroids in baseball, and Afghanistan ex-patriots returning to Kabul among others.

*TIME Inc.*, Hong Kong, Summer 2001

- Wrote news briefs, headlines, picture captions and web-based stories for Time.com. Participated in a reporting trip to Shanghai and Hong Kong with fellow journalism school colleagues that resulted in a Sunday package for the *San Jose Mercury-News*.

*MarketWatch.com*, San Francisco, CA, Winter 2001

- Wrote multiple business and financial stories for the market-moving platform.

*Daily Union Democrat*, Sonora, CA, Fall 1996

- Covered police cases, trials and drug-related delinquency within the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains outside of Yosemite.

*Alexandria Town Talk*, Alexandria, LA, Summer 1993

- Worked as a youth sports reporter after college graduation.

*WWL-TV (CBS)*, New Orleans, LA, Spring 1993

- Delivered news scripts to production departments and operated the teleprompter for evening broadcasts.

## **Other News Publications**

*Wired News*, *Sacramento Bee*, *San Diego Magazine*, *East Bay Express*, *SanDiego.com*, *AnnArbor.com*, *Current Magazine*, *Gambit Weekly*, *New Orleans City Business*, *Offbeat Magazine*, *The Times-Picayune*, *NewOrleans.com*.

## **Fiction Publications**

- *Red Clay Review*, "Seen from Space: A Walk." 2014

- “Jury,” sound installation, Oaken Transformation sculpture and poetry walk, Brighton, MI. 2013
- *Specter Magazine*, “Any’s Wear.” 2012
- *Platte Valley Review*, “A Myth of Fingerprints.” 2011
- *River Poets Journal*, “The Farm.” 2010

### **News Honors**

- 2010 Phi Kappa Phi Honors Society
- 2009 San Diego Press Club, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Non Daily Feature
- 2009 San Diego Press Club, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Non Daily Science and Technology
- 2009 San Diego Press Club, 1<sup>st</sup> place, Non Daily Architect and Design
- 2009 Society of Professional Journalists San Diego, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Investigative
- 2009 Society of Professional Journalists San Diego, 2<sup>nd</sup> place real estate
- 2008 Society of Professional Journalists San Diego 2<sup>nd</sup> place breaking news online,
- 2008 San Diego Press Club, 1<sup>st</sup> place feature non-daily.
- 2000 Fellow, The Institute of Politics at Loyola University of New Orleans.