



Herton Abacherli Escobar / CV

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General profile

I am a professional Brazilian journalist, specialized in Science and Environment, with a deep passion for research, conservation, accurate reporting and storytelling. From January 2019 to January 2026 I was a special-assignment reporter at the University of São Paulo (USP) newspaper ("Jornal da USP"), reporting mostly on scientific and environmental research. For the previous 19 years I was a reporter for "O Estado de S. Paulo" newspaper, with more than 2K stories published in print and online, on a wide variety of topics related to scientific research, integrity, policy-making and regulation. From 2015 to 2022 I was also a contributing writer to the "Science" magazine news division.

I studied journalism at Western Michigan University (WMU), graduating in 1999. After that, I was a science journalism fellow at the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL), a Knight Science Journalism fellow at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and a visiting scholar at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism (J-School), where I studied multimedia journalism. I have extensive experience in several media formats, including text, photography, video production and podcasting.

In July 2014 I received the most prestigious recognition for science journalism in Brazil, the "José Reis Award", given by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq); in addition to several other professional accolades, such as the National Biodiversity Award, given by the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment.

I have extensive academic and journalistic experience in several disciplines, mostly in the biological and environmental sciences (including biodiversity, biomedicine and biotechnology), in addition to climate change, sustainable development, higher education and science policy, integrity and communication. I also have an extensive amount of laboratory and field-work experience, having visited dozens of labs and research institutions around the world, and participated in several field research expeditions to jungles, mountains and marine environments; as well as international conferences held by United Nations and other important diplomatic forums.

In 2016 I cofounded the USP Talks initiative, a program designed to foster communication between academia and society through monthly events where scientists and professors talked openly with the public about issues that were hot in the news. More than 50 such events were held between 2016 and 2023, organized and hosted by me.

Professional experience

UNIVERSITY OF SAO PAULO – JAN 2019 - JAN 2026

Senior reporter at “Jornal da USP” (USP Newspaper)

USP TALKS INITIATIVE – APRIL 2016 - DEC 2023

Co-founder, host and content director

'SCIENCE' MAGAZINE – JAN 2015 - MAY 2022

International collaborator / contributing writer

'O ESTADO DE S. PAULO' NEWSPAPER – JAN 2000 - NOV 2018

Senior reporter for science and environment

'KALAMAZOO GAZETTE' NEWSPAPER – 1999

Intern general-assignment reporter

'WESTERN HERALD' (WMU NEWSPAPER) – 1996 - 1999

Reporter and editor-in-chief

Academic Background

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY (UC BERKELEY)

Visiting scholar at the Graduate School of Journalism (2014)

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (MIT)

Knight Science Journalism fellow (2006-2007)

MARINE BIOLOGICAL LABORATORY (MBL)

Science Journalism Program fellow (2005)

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

BA in English/Journalism (1994 - 1999)

Main awards

JOSÉ REIS AWARD FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

given by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development - CNPq (2014)

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY AWARD

given by the Brazilian Ministry of Environment (2017)

PETROBRAS JOURNALISM AWARD

sponsored by the Petrobras company; category: Innovation in journalism (2017)

CONFAP AWARD

given by the Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies (finalist, 2021)

Language proficiency

Fluent in Portuguese and English (reading, writing and speaking)

Basic Spanish (reading and speaking)

Professional references

Marcia Blasques, "Jornal da USP" executive editor

+55 (11) 98536-6823 / mblasques@usp.br

Giovana Girardi, "Pública" environmental journalist

+55 (11) 96919-9991 / giovana.girardi@gmail.com

Paulo Artaxo, USP professor and climate scientist

+55 (11) 99115-8970 / artaxo@if.usp.br

Alicia Kowaltowski, USP professor and biochemist

+55 (11) 99950-6658 / alicia@iq.usp.br

Online references and related links

USP Newspaper: <https://jornal.usp.br>

University of Sao Paulo: <https://www5.usp.br>

My stories in *Science*: <https://goo.gl/p29rXF>

USP Talks on YouTube: <https://goo.gl/6npyAN>

O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper: www.estadao.com

UC Berkeley J-School: <https://journalism.berkeley.edu>

MIT Knight Science Journalism Fellowship: <http://ksj.mit.edu>

MBL Science Journalism Program: <http://www.mbl.edu/sjp/>

Western Herald: <http://www.westernherald.com>

Kalamazoo Gazette: <http://www.mlive.com/kalamazoo/>