

Rebecca Dzombak, Ph.D.

Science writer

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Summary

I write about the natural world, broadly defined, with an emphasis on the intersection of climate change, sustainability, and humans. My work connects science and society by translating complex concepts into accessible, compelling stories that engage broad audiences and empower people to learn more.

Education

- Ph.D., Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Michigan August 2021
- MS, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Michigan August 2020
- BS Communication Studies, Earth & Environmental Sciences, University of Michigan May 2015

Experience

- **Freelance science journalist** June 2019 – present
 - Work published in *Scientific American*, *National Geographic*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *Science News*, *Civil Eats*, *Eos*, and others covering:
 - Ecology, climate change, and conservation
 - Geoscience and space sciences
 - Inclusivity and accessibility in scientific academia
 - Independently motivated and disciplined worker finding and translating compelling science+society narratives for both experts and lifelong learners.
 - Identify, source, and research article topics based on a wide range of science and technology publications.
 - Present research accurately and accessibly.
 - Initiate and maintain relationships with scientists and other experts.
 - Source images, videos, and other media to accompany stories.
 - Strive to include diverse sources in stories.
- **Media relations specialist, American Geophysical Union (AGU)** Sept. 2021 – present
 - Source stories on a range of interdisciplinary geoscience fields across 22 AGU journals.
 - Pitch and write press releases and other written works to accurately convey AGU research.
 - Engage online community and publicize research through multiple social media platforms.
 - Manage and contribute to coverage of major scientific conferences.
 - Manage workflow between AGU journals, scientists, media team, and freelance writers.
 - Copyedit press releases, social media copy, infographics, and other written products.
 - Help train and guide interns.
 - Craft and edit internal and external communications for a variety of AGU programs.
- **Science writing intern, American Geophysical Union (AGU)** June 2021 – Sept. 2021
 - Source stories on a range of interdisciplinary geoscience fields across 22 AGU journals.
 - Pitch and write press releases and other written works to accurately convey AGU research.
 - Engage online community and publicize research through multiple social media platforms.
 - Manage and contribute to coverage of major scientific conferences.

- Contribute to the team in a flexible, supportive manner.

- **Science Communication Fellow, Geological Society of America** July 2020 – May 2021
 - Conceived, sourced, and crafted press releases to drive broad media interest and engagement around cutting-edge geoscience research.
 - Managed and contributed to coverage of major scientific conferences.
 - Developed, wrote, and edited blog posts for expert and lay audiences (~102,000 readers).
 - Integrated an intentional focus on diversity and inclusion within geosciences.
 - Collaborated with Communications team to develop online content plan and grow social media engagement (~500,000 followers total).

- **Graduate student, University of Michigan** Sept. 2016 – May 2021
 - Synthesized current research across fields to frame new questions and conducted novel experiments to advance learning.
 - Collaborated to create, conduct, and present original research in both technical and public forums.
 - Crafted presentations, grants, and stories about scientific work to fundraise and share results.
 - Led and managed multiple projects/teams to ensure that individual development occurs alongside progress towards research goals.
 - Adobe creative suite, Wordpress, Matlab, Python, MS Office.

- **Staff writer, The Michigan Daily** Sept. 2013 – May 2015
 - Learned to write and edit in journalism setting, adhering to AP style.
 - Covered cross-country and track & field.