

DAVID WATTS BARTON

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During nearly 40 years in multimedia journalism I have used my talents as an interviewer, writer and editor in newspapers, magazines, radio, websites and social media. Expanding my work on multiple platforms, I have spoken to groups, taught, written for many media and have continued to blog regularly.

My work for the Kyoto-based website *Japanology.org* has been collected and will be published as *Japan from Anime to Zen* in January 2021.

In recent years, I have expanded into working with luxury brands doing content marketing and narrative strategies, largely in Japan, where I have lived off and on since 2016. I have also published a blog at *davidwattsbarton.com/blog* and have created a music history website, *music1967.com*, where I continue my explorations of music.

In addition to my 24 years at *The Sacramento Bee*, my work has appeared in dozens of newspapers, including *The Miami Herald*, *The Orange County Register*, *The Portland Oregonian*, *The San Francisco Examiner* and the *International Herald Tribune*. My work for the international wire service Bloomberg LLC has been published in newspapers around the world.

I was Editor-in-Chief of the local news website *SacramentoPress.com*, helping to lead the nation in this hybrid form of professional and amateur online local journalism. My work there led to fellowships at the University of Southern California and the University of California, Berkeley.

Having developed new skills with National Public Radio affiliate Capital Public Radio in Sacramento, I regularly hosted the daily hour-long live interview show, "Insight."

In October 2011, I won the inaugural Arts Journalist of the Year Award from the Arts and Business Council of Sacramento.

Finally, I am a singer/songwriter and regularly perform live and online. My first album, *Straight*, is on Spotify, Apple Music and Tidal, and can be reached through my website, *davidwattsbarton.com*.

MAJOR WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance writer, editor, blogger and author

2012-present

Since moving from Sacramento to New York City in 2012, and then to full time global travel in 2016, I have continued to work as an independent journalist, writing for magazines, newspapers and websites. I have also branched out into copywriting for luxury brands in New York and Kyoto, Japan, where much of my focus has been.

Working with narrative strategies and content marketing, I have allied with New York based luxury branding company HI(NY), and learned a lot about this non-journalistic form of writing.

I have also focused on long form writing, and have written a book, *Japan from Anime to Zen*, which will be published in January 2021 by Stone Bridge Press, in Berkeley, California.

I write a daily blog at davidwattsbarton.com/blog. The blog has covered my experiences in New York, in Japan and during my travels around the world, as well as personal insights and other writing based on my journalism work.

In January 2020, I launched the music history website *Music1967.com*, based on my years of writing about music, in 2020. *Music1967.com* is a weekly history of that crucial year in music and culture – it is being published week-by-week through 2020.

Finally, I also wrote and performed an hour-long personal monologue, *Underwater: The 100 Year Flood*, which was selected as the first official Writer's Work-in-Progress by the All-For-One Theater Festival in New York City in 2014.

Japanology.org

Editor-in-chief and lead writer, 2016 to present

I helped launch this educational website in 2016, and was the sole writer until 2019, when we opened the site up to others. The site continues to be a well-trafficked source for information on Japan's history and culture. My work for *Japanology.org* has been collected and will be published as *Japan from Anime to Zen* in January 2021 by Stone Bridge Press, Berkeley, California.

The Sacramento Press

Editor-in-Chief, November 2008-October 2011

As Editor-in-Chief of the pioneering, nationally known hyperlocal website *SacramentoPress.com*, responsible for the creation and management of the site's editorial department and for its introduction and promotion to the Sacramento community.

MAJOR WORK EXPERIENCE (continued)

Established the site's standards and processes, created new products (video displays, audio widgets, weekly features, layout features) and designed and established the weekly email newsletters *Go.See.Do.* and *Your Sacramento Press Weekly Newsletter*.

Guided the editorial department, hired journalists, introducing them to sources, assigning stories and giving them daily editing and story advice as they established their beats. Doing line editing and guiding the overall direction of the coverage, my experience was essential in navigating this new form of local daily journalism.

Helped develop the "community contributor" department, advised "citizen journalists" and offering advice to the former editorial intern who was hired to manage the community's offerings. Taught some of *The Sacramento Press's* most popular community workshops: reviewing and editorial writing.

Represented *The Sacramento Press* in the community, acting as "the soul of our operation," according to site co-founder Ben Ilfeld.

As a speaker on journalism and digital media at university classes, post-graduate seminars, professional groups, civic organizations and national conferences, I was a tireless evangelist for this new form of hyper-local journalism.

Capital Public Radio

Regular substitute host, then full-time host of "Insight on Capital Public Radio," on Northern California's NPR affiliate station, 2008-2012

Hosting the hour-long live interview show for Northern California's NPR affiliate, I wrote the script and interviewed four guests every day: Among the newsmakers I interviewed were authors, investigative journalists, politicians, bureaucrats, academics and a wide variety of artists and musicians.

I have been praised for the ease with which I handle guests, and the focus and persistence of my questioning. A natural conversationalist, I know how to engage with guests and to draw them out without making myself the focus. It was during this time that I won the "Arts Journalist of the Year" award from the Arts and Business Council of Sacramento.

Bloomberg LLC

Legal correspondent, 2008-2012

Covering county and federal courts in Sacramento for the international news organization Bloomberg LLC, I have written about cases as diverse as the court battles over Proposition 8 in California, international copyright lawsuits and an embezzlement case against a major political fundraiser.

MAJOR WORK EXPERIENCE (continued)

Working under Bloomberg's exacting standards, kept daily track of the legal dockets of both federal and superior courts for Bloomberg LLC, reporting to editors when something of interest to Bloomberg was coming, and learning the ins and outs of the online court docket system.

The Sacramento Bee

Senior Writer, 1983-2007

The Bee was my journalistic home for nearly 25 years, first as the paper's pop music critic, then as a general assignment senior writer covering religion, outdoor recreation, culture, gender identity, business and myriad subjects.

I wrote virtually every type of newspaper story: interviews, trend pieces, news stories, opinion columns, first person features, news roundups as well as concert, record, movie, theater and comedy reviews.

I pride myself on being a clear, versatile and fast writer who quickly gets to the gist of the topic at hand. I am able to quickly find a unique, insightful angle that can make even familiar topics fresh and I have tackled hundreds of subjects including:

- A mentally disabled young man's foray into home ownership (this won the Alta Regional Center's Journalist of the Year award, 2002)
- A woman's 200-mile hike to honor the memory of her late husband
- The physics (and psychology) of fire-walking
- A day spent with physicist Stephen J. Hawking

In addition, I have written hundreds of in-depth profiles of newsmakers, including Paul McCartney, William Kunstler, Sheila Kuehl, Al Franken, James Brown, Fritjof Capra, Barbara Bush, Don Henley, Terrence McKenna, Ashley Judd and Yoko Ono.

As a staff writer for The McClatchy Company's wire service, my work has appeared in dozens of newspapers around the United States.

AWARDS

Arts Journalist of the Year, 2011

Arts and Business Council of Sacramento

Journalist of the Year, 2002

Alta California Regional Center, a mental health organization

Nominee, 2012 VIBE (Visionaries in Building Excellence) Award

Downtown Sacramento Partnership, a business association

ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS

2010 Knight-McCormick Leadership Institute at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

2010 Knight Digital Media Center “Web Publishing for Independent Journalists” Fellowship at the University of California, Berkeley

2010 Fellow at the California Endowment’s Health Journalism Fellowships at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

2011 Fellow at the NYC Hyperlocal Newsroom Conclave
New York University Arthur R. Carter Journalism Institute

2011 American Society of Newspaper Editors, Joint Conference with the Inter American Press Association in San Diego, Calif.

BOOKS

Japan from Anime to Zen, to be published January 2021 by Stone Bridge Press, Berkeley, California. Based on a half-dozen visits to the country, as well as on my work for *Japanology.org*, the book is aimed at a general audience seeking high quality information on Japan’s fascinating culture.

IN OTHER MEDIA

KFBK 1530, NewsTalk radio

2008-2012

“Plugged-In with David Watts Barton”

Regular guest on the afternoon drive time broadcast, giving my thoughts on current entertainment options in Northern California.

BloggingtheGrid.com

2007-2009

After leaving *The Sacramento Bee* after nearly 25 years, I launched a blog, BloggingtheGrid.com, one of the first local websites to cover events in Sacramento’s central city, from breaking news to entertainment reviews. BloggingtheGrid.com prepared me to enter the world of online hyper local journalism that would continue and expand at *The Sacramento Press*.

Capital Public Radio, KXJZ 90.9 FM

2011

I created a weekly spot in which I discussed local issues in the news on “Insight.” After leaving *The Sacramento Press*, I declined an invitation to continue as the spot’s sole guest, instead suggesting and helping recruit a group of rotating guests from other local media outlets.

Video: “State of the Downtown”

2011

This production by the Downtown Sacramento Partnership featured my comments on the city’s problems and promise. I appeared with the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce and top developers.

KVIE (PBS in Sacramento)

2011

I appeared as one of two guests on the “Charlie Rose”-like half-hour interview show “Studio Sacramento,” discussing the state of downtown Sacramento.

MAGAZINES

Sactown

Sacramento Magazine

Horizon Air

Under the Gum Tree

NEWSPAPERS (Selection)

The Miami Herald

The Rocky Mountain News

The San Diego Union Tribune

The San Francisco Examiner

The St. Petersburg Times

The Orange County Register

TEACHING

“Journalism in the Digital Age” an eight-week course on social media journalism at the Sacramento Central Library, 2012

Certified Diversity Facilitator, certified by the Newspaper Association of America, 2002-2003.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Leadership Sacramento, Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce

“Arts, Culture and Entertainment in Sacramento” talks, 2008, 2009

UC Davis Extension

“The Future of Writing,” a panel at the UC Davis Extension Creative and Non-Fiction Writing Programs, 2009

Sacramento Public Relations Association

Panels on working with new media, 2010, 2011

Speaking engagements at university classes, professional groups and civic organizations, including University of California, Davis; California State University, Sacramento; American River College; Cosumnes River College, Sacramento County Law Library, Culinary Arts Institute of Sacramento.