

SONAL SHAH

PHONE [REDACTED] | EMAIL [REDACTED] | WEBSITE www.sonalshah.in

WORK EXPERIENCE

Freelance 2006 - Present

- Consulting Editor, *National Geographic Traveller India* (March 2015 - present).
- Research assistant to author Patrick French for official Doris Lessing biography (February 2016 - present).
- Editing and fact-checking for *Departures*; *Black Ink*; Random House; AOL/ Patch.com; Indagare Travel; ESP Films and others, including various social justice blogs, academic papers and unpublished literary manuscripts. Contributed research and writing to Fodor's *Essential India* and Time Out *India: Perfect Places* guidebooks.
- Articles published in *The New York Times* "India Ink", *The Indian Express*, *Open*, *Art India*, *Food & Wine* (USA), *Departures*; Ink Publishing, and others.

Associate Editor, *The Caravan*, New Delhi, India October 2013 – August 2015

- Commissioned and edited long-form reportage and opinion—including stories on politics, policy, the media and the arts—for India's first magazine of narrative journalism. Also took on various organisational, managerial responsibilities.

Chief Editor/Managing Editor/Consulting Editor, *Time Out Delhi*, New Delhi, India July 2011 – May 2013

- Commissioned and edited all content (text, visual, photo) for a globally branded cultural affairs magazine (fortnightly, 90-200 pages). Managed editorial staff (10-15 people), worked with sales and marketing teams, and contributed to writing and reporting, including a regular column.

Research Assistant, American Express Publishing, New York City September 2010 – July 2011

- Fact-checking and research for *Travel + Leisure* and *Departures* magazines (now Time Inc. publications).

Editor/ staff writer *Time Out Delhi*, New Delhi October 2006 - August 2009

- Helped launch new magazine. Anchored all visual arts coverage; then the food and drink section. Built contact databases, planned cover story packages; reported on city issues, news and culture; interviewed prominent authors and officials; assisted with copy-editing, layout, proofreading.

Program Associate, Asia Society India Center, Mumbai April 2006 - June 2006

- Helped launch India chapter of this international business, policy and culture platform. Coordinated with USA office; managed publicity, resources, events.

Trainee Sub-editor, *The Indian Express*, New Delhi September 2005 - February 2006

- Copy-edited, proofread and designed pages for various editions of one of India's top English-language dailies.

EDUCATION

Graduate School of Journalism, Columbia University, New York City May 2010

- M.S., Magazine Concentration; coursework in digital and social media, radio, video, beat reporting, narrative style writing.
- Thesis on low-income rental housing, predatory lending and foreclosure in the Bronx (advisor Howard French).
- Designed website/cover of [The New York Review of Magazines](#) (2010 edition) for a class with Victor Navasky.

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania May 2005

- B.A. with Highest Honors. Major in Sociology & Anthropology, minor in Interpretation Theory, extensive coursework in English/Comparative Literature.
- Reported on the Kashmiri tourist economy from Srinagar and New Delhi for undergraduate thesis.
- Semester abroad at St. Stephens College, New Delhi.

SKILLS & INTERESTS

- **Languages:** Degrees of fluency/literacy in English, Hindi, Urdu and French; basic Spanish.
- **Technical:** Adobe (Photoshop, InDesign, InCopy, Illustrator, etc); basic Flash; Final Cut Pro, Pro Tools; Content Management Systems (WordPress and others); basic HTML and CSS; social media; Quark; Microsoft Office.
- **Other:** Painting, photography (with darkroom work), Kuchipudi dance, classical piano. Founded and edited literary magazines in school and college. Board Secretary of social justice project [Lokashakti](#).