

# SHANNON O'BRIEN, PHD

BIOLOGIST + SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR

## CONTACT



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## SKILLS

### ➤ PROFESSIONAL

- Independent + Collaborative Research
- Project Management
- Field + Lab Research
- Team Management
- Grant Writing
- Academic Writing + Peer Review
- Scientific Presentations
- Education + Outreach
- Event Planning
- Mentoring + Training
- Content Creation for Social Media
- Writing for Print + Audio

## EDUCATION

### PHD | INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY

University of California | Berkeley  
2016 – 2022

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE | PSYCHOLOGY

University of New Mexico | Albuquerque  
2011 – 2016

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### BIOLOGIST

UC Berkeley + Museum of Vertebrate Zoology | Berkeley, CA | 2016 – 2022

Behavioral biologist with an international research program on the behavioral ecology and natural history of wild mammals.

- Conducted international field research, which included live-trapping of wild mammals, fecal sample collection, radiocollaring, radio-telemetry, behavioral data collection, and field team management
- Administered laboratory protocols including hormonal assays, gut microbiome extractions, and DNA extractions
- Authored and awarded numerous research grants from the Animal Behavior Society, American Society of Mammalogists, Sigma Xi, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, and National Academy of Sciences
- Published 6 peer-reviewed articles in top-tier academic journals: *Hormones and Behavior*, *Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology*, *Journal of Mammalogy*, *Biological Journal of the Linnean Society*
- Presented research at 2 national conferences: American Society of Mammalogists and Animal Behavior Society

### UNIVERSITY-LEVEL EDUCATOR

UC Berkeley | Berkeley, CA | 2017 – 2020

Inclusion-oriented instructor for multiple undergraduate-level courses, both in-person and remote for the University of California, Berkeley.

- Delivered a range of teaching and assessment activities at the undergraduate level across multiple campus departments
- Developed and integrated course learning activities that value and foster equity and inclusion, community building, and collaboration
- Certified remote instructor via the Center for Teaching and Learning at UC Berkeley, which involved collaboration with faculty, application of high-quality remote pedagogical approaches, online course site design, and redesign of assessments for the remote context
- Courses taught: Food, Culture, and the Environment; Introductory Biology; Animal Behavior

### SCIENCE AND NATURE WRITER

Gaiali | Remote | January 2022 – Present

Engaging script writer with a specialty for translating complex scientific content into compelling audio stories for a general audience.

- 27 audio scripts authored to date
- Conducts content research and develops content themes in collaboration with Gaiali staff
- Recent projects: Amazing Ecosystems; Fantastic Bugs and Where to Find Them; Nature's Most Misunderstood Animals

# SHANNON O'BRIEN

## SKILLS

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### ➤ TECHNICAL

- Data Analysis in R
- Database Management
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Google Suite
- Protocol Development
- Handling Live Animals
- Behavioral Video Coding
- Social Network Analysis
- Adobe Illustrator + InDesign
- Design in Canva and Procreate
- Digital Media Marketing

## AWARDS

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### **FORD FOUNDATION FELLOW**

National Academy of Science | 2019

### **CHANCELLOR'S FELLOW**

UC Berkeley | 2016

## CERTIFICATIONS

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### **CERTIFIED REMOTE INSTRUCTOR**

Center for Teaching and Learning

UC Berkeley

2020

## EXPERIENCE CONTINUED...

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### SCIENCE COMMUNICATOR

Berkeley Science Review | Berkeley, CA | 2020 – 2022

Multi-faceted science communicator for a local science magazine.

- Served as primary editor for 5+ articles printed in the magazine each issue (published semesterly), which included fact-checking and copyediting
- Designed original editorial illustrations for 1-2 articles each issue for the magazine and online blog
- Collaborated with a diverse team of authors, editors, and designers to communicate scientific research creatively and effectively
- Authored 2 articles for the magazine that involved first person journalism and interviewing scientists

### NON-PROFIT EVENT PLANNER AND COORDINATOR

Expanding Your Horizons | Berkeley, CA | 2017 – 2021

Team leader and event organizer for a yearly regional STEM conference.

- Directly managed team of 5 graduate students responsible for planning and organizing yearly STEM conference with 400+ attendees
- Recruited and trained 30+ workshop leaders for each conference, which included development of recruitment and training strategy and digital media marketing
- Organized opening and closing ceremonies, which included a keynote speaker and live raffle
- Assisted with day-of operations and logistics

### VOLUNTEER SCIENCE EDUCATOR

Community Resources for Science | Berkeley, CA | 2016 – 2019

Engaging and community-oriented scientific educator.

- Volunteer K-5 teacher for Bay Area Scientists in Schools; taught interactive biology lessons in local classrooms that were designed following next-generation science standards
- Volunteer middle school science teacher for Be a Scientist; mentored group of 5 students for a 6-week long program to prepare them for their local science fair
- Volunteer science fair judge at local elementary school; assessed and evaluated science fair projects using an anonymous rubric