

# FREDERICK O'BRIEN

## Work

Software engineer and occasional reporter at [The Guardian](#) since April 2021, working full stack across editorial tooling, interactives, and data journalism. Was also an integral part of the team that developed the Feast cooking app.

NCTJ-qualified occasional multimedia journalist. Section editor at [Smashing Magazine](#) since January 2020. Have written for *New Scientist*, *The Quietus*, *Reader's Digest*, and *Byline Times*, among others. Ran editorial at hyperlocal London magazine [Roman Road LDN](#) for most of 2019. Recently finished a year teaching data journalism at [News Associates](#).

Other experiences include co-leading a team of 12 on a charity expedition in Nepal, cleaning tanks in fish research facilities, and mucking out horse stables in Hertfordshire.

## Play

Maintain the [Gonzo Engineering](#) project, building open source resources for journalists, musicians, and artists. Initiatives include, [teeline.online](#), a free interactive learning tool for studying Teeline shorthand, and [Skene](#), a website template for musicians.

Co-founder of music webzine [Audioxide](#), on which I and two friends occasionally review albums together. In 2024 we rebuilt the site with Svelte. I was responsible for design and front-end development.

Run a fake newspaper called [The Whale-Lines](#). I hope one day to distribute a print edition at Speakers' Corner while being pelted with rotten fruit. Also write satirical pieces for [The Hard Times](#) now and then.

## Education

2018-19 / NCTJ Diploma in Multimedia Journalism, News Associates

2015-16 / MA English: Issues in Modern Culture, UCL

2011-15 / BA American Studies, University of Hull