

PHUA EN-LIN RACHEL

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EDUCATION

COLUMBIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM

M.S. Data Journalism | August 2022 - August 2023

Combining programming and investigative techniques to report data-driven stories. Have or will learn: Web scrapping using BeautifulSoup and Playwright; PDF scrapping, Python, R, SQL, Pandas, Datawrapper, Excel, Adobe Illustrator, data collection using APIs, ggplot, QGIS

Data-driven stories I've done — with maps and charts — include: [Workplace deaths in the U.S.](#) using OSHA data; [People with disabilities and the labor gap](#) using BLS and EEOC data; [CEO compensation](#) using 14-A SEC filings; [Truckers buckling under high diesel prices](#); A fun piece on when to cross the [Singapore-Malaysia border with real-time traffic updates](#) using the Singapore government's API

NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

B.A. Hon. Social Sciences (Distinction) | August 2012 - December 2016

Studied communication theory. Did exchange program to University of Texas at Austin's Journalism school, where stories were published in [Dallas Morning News](#), Austin American-Statesman, and [Austin Business Journal](#). Story for the Morning News won SPJ award. Interned at NPR's [Texas Standard](#) and [Austin Woman Magazine](#) between January and May 2015

EXPERIENCE

NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CNBC

- Revamped CNBC's Asia-Pacific and Europe-Middle East flagship newsletters.
- Wrote daily flagship technology newsletter, "Beyond the Valley"
- Reported six stories — including one [earnings report](#), another on [tech layoffs](#). Used Datawrapper to make charts

COPY EDITOR, PRODUCER, NEWSLETTER WRITER, GOLDTHREAD BY SCMP

June 2021 - August 2022

- Edited two to four scripts a week, restructuring scripts, correcting reporters' English, and checking English-to-Chinese translations.
- Wrote a [weekly newsletter](#) on latest China and Chinese culture news Had an open rate of 30% on average with 8,000 subscribers
- Edited social media captions daily
- Produced [two videos](#) about Singaporean food

REPORTER, DEALSTREETASIA BY NIKKEI ASIA

March 2021 - May 2022

- [Wrote more than 250 stories](#) on venture capital deals, company earnings, Southeast Asia tech trends, and gig workers, including multiple feature analyses on why Southeast Asia's Grab is doing poorly, how boom times led to poor due diligence, and gig workers growing discontent
- About 10 stories were featured in Nikkei Asia, including this feature on [Southeast Asia's tech talent crunch](#)
- Scoop on Sea Ltd's France venture was mentioned in a [Financial Times newsletter](#)
- Moderated panels during company's annual conference

DIGITAL AND BROADCAST REPORTER, CHANNEL NEWSASIA (CNA)

October 2019 - March 2021,
January 2017 - February 2018

DIGITAL REPORTER (2019-2021)

- [Filed nearly 300 stories](#), including breaking news about [COVID-19](#), [parliamentary proceedings](#), the [Budget](#), [government laws](#), and [Singapore's 2020 national elections](#); as the secondary court reporter, I covered [state court cases](#)
- As the labor beat reporter, I wrote about [jobs](#), [unemployment](#), [wages](#), [disability rights](#) and [migrant worker issues](#), including investigative pieces about their [mental health during COVID-19 lockdowns](#), and the [protracted claims process after a serious injury](#).
- Wrote dozens of features related to labor, [small businesses](#), and families with special needs members, including [one on a family](#) with a 40-year-old autistic son. A [companion video](#) about the family has almost nine million views so far
- Produced news videos, and [fronted an explainer](#) on how the K-shaped economic recovery during the pandemic would affect workers

BROADCAST REPORTER (2017-2018)

- Filed hundreds of breaking news and feature packages on Singapore's real estate and infrastructure sectors, sometimes up to three stories a day for the national broadcaster. I also had to work with multiple colleagues at one time — fellow reporters, graphic designers, video editors, news editors, and anchors
- Filed scoops on [condo sales](#), a [property app's subscription hike and boycott](#), and a [lawsuit against a rival](#)

FOUNDING WRITER, SALT&LIGHT

February 2018 - October 2019

- Hired as one of the first writers for a local Christian publication, mostly writing human interest features about the Christian community in Asia
- Story I wrote [on a father with three disabled children](#) spurred a local bakery to successfully raise [\\$100,000 for the family](#)
- Went to [Fukushima, Japan to write](#) a series of stories on the effects on the local community of the tsunami and nuclear disaster eight years on

NEWS INTERNSHIPS, THE EDGE (BUSINESS WEEKLY); BBC ASIA

April 2016 - August 2016

- BBC: Arranged interviews and scouted for shooting locations for news anchor; compiled and cleaned up newsroom's contact list
- The Edge: Wrote breaking news and features focused on small private and public businesses in Singapore

SKILLS & AFFILIATIONS

DATA COLLECTION & VISUALIZATION

Python, FOIA, Datawrapper, Excel

PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEOGRAPHY

DSLR photography, Adobe Lightroom & Premiere Pro

LANGUAGES

English (native), Mandarin Chinese, Japanese (basic)

MUSIC

ABRSM Diploma in Piano

MEMBERSHIP

Asian Americans Journalists Association

AWARDS

Bill Greider Fellow in Labor Reporting from Payday Report and the Institute for Public Accuracy (2022); Tan Ean Kiam Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship (2022); Robins Scholarship (2022); Journalism 70 Scholarship (2022); First Amendment Award, Society of Professional Journalists, Fort Worth Chapter (2016)

REFERENCES

Ted Kemp, CNBC Asia Managing Editor,
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Joji Philip, DealStreetAsia Founder,
jojiphilip@dealstreetasia.com

Jonathan Soma, Professor and Knight Chair in Data Journalism at Columbia University, js4571@columbia.edu