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Journalism Experience

Author, Journalist, Speaker, Advocate	2008 - present
The New York Times , contributing opinion writer	2014 - present
Los Angeles Times , projects and urban affairs reporter covering social and social justice issues	1993 - 2008
The Wall Street Journal , staff reporter covering social issues, back-up Latin America correspondent based in NYC, Atlanta, and Miami	1982 - 1986
based in Los Angeles	1988 - 1993
The Washington Post , summer intern	1981
El Pais (Madrid, Spain), reporter	1980

Major Awards

Pulitzer Prize, Feature Writing, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2003
George Polk Award for International Reporting, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2002
Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Outstanding Coverage of the Problems of the Disadvantaged, Grand Prize Winner, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2002
Pulitzer Prize finalist in public service category, for " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> "	1998
George Polk Award for Local Reporting, for series " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1994
Pulitzer Prize for local reporting of spot news (team coverage), presented to the staff of the Los Angeles Times, for coverage of the first day of the Los Angeles earthquake.	1994

Humanitarian and Additional Awards

Honorary Doctorate, Rider University	2021
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality Spirit of HOPE Award	2018
George D. Nickel Award for Outstanding Contributions to Social Welfare, University of Southern California	2017
American Heritage Award, American Immigration Council	2016
Golden Door Award, HIAS Pennsylvania	2015
Don and Arvonne Fraser Human Rights Award	2015
Champion for Children Award, First Focus	2015
Honorary Doctorate, Whittier College	2013
Honorary Doctorate, Mt. St. Mary's College	2010
Williams College Bicentennial Medal	2004

Book Awards

<i>Enrique's Journey</i> Named 'One of the Best Books of the Year' by <i>People Magazine</i> , <i>Washington Post</i> , <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> , <i>Miami Herald</i> , and <i>San Antonio Express News</i>	
National Bestseller, <i>Enrique's Journey</i>	
Best Latino Book, The Latino Author, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2014
California Book Award, Silver Medal, Non-fiction, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2006
Christopher Award, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2006

Journalism Awards

The Courage Award, Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations, John Anson Ford Award	2004
Penn Center USA Literary Award for Journalism, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2003
Sidney Hillman Foundation Award, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2003
Hispanic Public Relations Assn. Premio Award for Journalism	2003
Mexican American Bar Foundation Community Service Award	2003
National Hispanic Media Coalition Impact Award, Excellence in Print Journalism	2003
National Assn. of Hispanic Journalists Guillermo Martínez-Márquez Award for General Excellence	2003

Journalism Awards, Continued

National Assn. of Hispanic Journalists Award, Print Feature Writing, First Place, for " <i>The Boy Left Behind</i> "	2003
National Assn. of Hispanic Journalists Award, Print Non-Deadline Reporting, First Place, for " <i>The Boy Left Behind</i> "	2003
Colombia University Graduate School of Journalism "Let's Do it Better!" Award, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2003
The Inter-American Press Assn. IAPA-Features Award, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2003
Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for Outstanding Coverage of the Problems of the Disadvantaged, International Print Winner, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2002
Overseas Press Club of America Robert Spiers Benjamin Award, Best Reporting in Any Medium on Latin America, for " <i>The Boy Left Behind</i> "	2002
Society of Professional Journalists Sigma Delta Chi Award, Online Non-Deadline Reporting, for " <i>Enrique's Journey</i> "	2002
<i>Los Angeles Times</i> Editorial Award, Publisher's Prize	2002
Greater Los Angeles Press Club, Second Place, Journalist of the Year	2002
Greater Los Angeles Press Club, Special Section, News or Feature, First Place, for " <i>The Boy Left Behind</i> "	2002
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of the San Fernando Valley Special Recognition Award, for " <i>Sobering Facts</i> "	1999
National Council on Crime and Delinquency PASS Award, for " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> "	1998
Greater Los Angeles Press Club, 40 th Annual Southern California Journalism awards, feature reporting, award of excellence for " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> "	1998
California Women's Law Center Pursuit of Justice Award, for body of work including " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> " and " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1998
Aaron Price Child Health and Welfare Journalism Award, Second Place, for " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> "	1998
California Newspaper Publishers Assn., First Place, Investigative and Enterprise reporting, for " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> "	1998
Times Mirror Chairman's Award, for " <i>Orphans of Addiction</i> "	1998
YWCA of Greater Los Angeles Silver Achievement Award	1998
American Psychiatric Assn. commendation for outstanding reporting on psychiatric issues, for " <i>Suicidal Tendencies: When Kids See Death as an Answer</i> "	1998
Life-Time Award, Institute for Suicide Prevention, for " <i>Suicidal Tendencies: When Kids See Death as an Answer</i> "	1997
<i>Los Angeles Times</i> Editorial Award for best example of good writing, regardless of subject, timelines or deadline. Presented for " <i>Driven to Extremes: Life in the Antelope Valley</i> "	1996
National Assn. of Hispanic Journalists Guillermo Martinez-Marquez Award for Overall Excellence, for series " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1995
National Assn. of Hispanic Journalists, Best Print Work Award, for series " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1995
The Westside Food Bank (Los Angeles), Public Service Award, for series " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1994
Cameron R. Duncan World Hunger Media Ward for best newspaper, for series " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1994
<i>Los Angeles Times</i> Editorial Award for best project by an individual or a team, for series " <i>The Hunger Wars – Fighting for Food in Southern California</i> "	1994
Theodore Alford Scholarship for Journalism from the William Allen White Foundation, University of Kansas	1987
Graduate Minority Fellowship by University of California, Berkeley	1986 & 1987
Ellen B. Scripps Fellowship by Scripps-Howard Foundation	1986 & 1987
Mead Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Williams College	1981

Professional Affiliations

[Board Member](#), KIND (Kids In Need of Defense)

Board Member, Honduran Threads

Member, Advisory Board, Catch the Next

Member, Advisory Board, ReNews

Member, Advisory Board, Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference, University of North Texas

Member, Journalism and Women Symposium



Education

Honorary Doctorate, Rider University	2021
Honorary Doctorate, Whittier College	2013
Honorary Doctorate, Mt. St. Mary's College	2010
University of California, Berkeley	
M.A., Latin American Studies	1988
Williams College, Williamstown, Mass.	
B.A., History	1982

Languages

English (fluent)
Spanish (fluent)

Bibliography

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