

Sonia Shah

Journalist and Author

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Education

BA philosophy (major), neuroscience (minor), Oberlin College 1990

Books

The Next Great Migration: The Beauty and Terror of Life on the Move (Bloomsbury 2020)

Pandemic: Tracking Contagions from Coronavirus to Cholera and Beyond (Farrar, Straus & Giroux 2016)

The Fever: How Malaria Has Ruled Humankind for 500,000 Years (Farrar, Straus & Giroux,

2010) *The Body Hunters: Testing New Drugs in the World's Poorest Patients* (The New Press,

2006) *Crude: The Story of Oil* (Seven Stories Press, 2004)

Dragon Ladies: Asian American Feminists Breathe Fire (edited collection) (South End Press, 1997)

Awards and honors

- Selected as a 2023 One Health Champion by EcoHealth Alliance
- Selected as judge for 2023 National Book Award in Non-Fiction by National Book Foundation
- Finalist for the 2021 PEN/E.O Wilson Literary Science Writing Award (*The Next Great Migration*)
- Best Nonfiction Book of 2020 by *Publishers Weekly* (*The Next Great Migration*)
- Best Science Book of 2020 by Amazon (*The Next Great Migration*)
- Best Science and Technology Book of 2020 by *Library Journal* (*The Next Great Migration*)
- *Tata Literature Live!* finalist for the Best Book of the Year (*The Next Great Migration*)
- *New York Times Book Review* Editor's Choice (*Pandemic*)
- Finalist for the 2017 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in science/technology (*Pandemic*)
- Finalist for the New York Public Library's Helen Bernstein Book Award for Excellence in Journalism (*Pandemic*)
- Finalist for the National Association of Science Writers' Science in Society Award (*Pandemic*)
- Long-listed for the Royal Society's Winton Prize (*The Fever*)
- Selected as one of "7 Essential Books about Pandemics," by the *New York Times* in 2020 (*The Fever*)
- Selected as one of the "27 Books Every Woman in America Should Read" by BuzzFeed in 2017 (*Dragon Ladies*)
- *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2022* ("Animal Planet")

Articles

- "The Animals Are Talking. What Does It Mean?" *New York Times Magazine*, September 20, 2023
- "The Case for Free-Range Lab Mice." *The New Yorker* magazine. February 18, 2023
- "Animals That Infect Humans Are Scary. It's Worse When We Infect Them Back." *New York Times Magazine*, January 19, 2022
- "Animal planet: How far does wildlife roam?" *New York Times Magazine*, January 17, 2021.
- "Climate change will drive people across borders," *Foreign Affairs*, July 29, 2020.
- "It's time to tell a new story about coronavirus—our lives depend on it," *The Nation*, July 14, 2020

- “Mass consumption is what ails us,” *Foreign Affairs*, April 17, 2020
- “How Trump Is Going to Get Away with a Pandemic,” *The Nation*, March 31, 2020 • “Think exotic animals are to blame for the coronavirus? Think again.” *The Nation*, February 18, 2020. Reprinted by Le Monde Diplomatique in French, Spanish, Farsi, and Portuguese. • “The Pandemic of Xenophobia and Scapegoating,” *TIME* magazine, February 3, 2020 • “Native or invasive species? The distinction blurs as the world warms,” *Yale e360*, January 14, 2020. • “Do the Olympics Actually Make the World Less Healthy?” *The Nation*, August 19, 2016 • “How foreclosed homes and used tires can threaten public health in the age of Zika,” *Washington Post*, July 31, 2016
- “Refugees and Greece’s Health Crisis,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 28, 2016
- “From Zika to Antibiotic-Resistant Superbugs: Welcome to the New Age of Contagions,” *The Nation*, June 16, 2016
- “What You Get When You Mix Chickens, China, and Climate Change,” *New York Times*, February 5, 2016
- “Mapping Cholera: A Tale of Two Cities,” *Scientific American*, October 2, 2014 • “A Cure for Africa’s Common Cold: Why Malaria Persists,” *Foreign Affairs*, October 24, 2013 • “New threat from poxviruses,” *Scientific American* magazine, March 2013
- “The Super-Resistant Bacteria That Has India ‘Hell Scared’” *The Atlantic*, January 26, 2012. • “How Private Companies Are Transforming the Global Health Agenda,” *Foreign Affairs*, November 9, 2011
- “Climate’s Strong Fingerprints in Global Cholera Outbreaks,” *Yale Environment 360*, February 17, 2011
- “Learning to Live with Malaria,” *New York Times*, October 8, 2010
- “The Tenacious Buzz of Malaria,” *Wall Street Journal*, July 10, 2010
- “Turning to Greener Weapons in the Battles Against Malaria,” *Yale e360*, May 2, 2010 • “As Pharmaceutical Use Soars, Drugs Taint Water and Wildlife,” *Yale e360*, April 15, 2010 • “Behind Mass Die-offs, Pesticides Lurk as Culprit,” *Yale Environment 360*, January 7, 2010 • “Climate and the Spread of New Diseases,” *Yale Environment 360*, October 15, 2009 • “Kicking the Habit,” *Washington Post*, October 14, 2006
- “Don’t blame environmentalists for malaria,” *The Nation*, March 31, 2006
- “The Tiniest Trash Bin,” *Orion* magazine, November 2004.

Grants and Fellowships

2024 Guggenheim Fellow

2023 Whiting Foundation Creative Nonfiction Grant

2020, 2016, 2014, 2012 Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting Grants

2010 The Nation Institute/Puffin Foundation Writing Fellow

Teaching

2014 Ottaway Professor of Journalism, SUNY New Paltz. 2002 Media ethics lecturer, James Cook University, Townsville, Queensland, Australia

Selected Media appearances

Fareed Zakaria GPS (CNN); Last Week Tonight with John Oliver (HBO); Democracy Now! With Amy Goodman; TED.com (Including “How to make pandemics like Covid-19 optional, not inevitable”; “3 reasons we still haven’t gotten rid of malaria,” (over 1.5 million views); “How unhealthy paradigms become contagious”); Fresh Air with Terry Gross (NPR).