

Nick Van Mead
nickvanmead@gmail.com
@nickvanmead

Award-winning editor and writer of long-form journalism, interactive explainers and international and domestic news. Focus on the environment and sustainability

Employment

Guardian Cities: Deputy editor (Feb 2014 to date)

- A founder member of the team behind the award-winning Guardian Cities website, highly regarded for its beautifully produced features exploring the challenges faced by cities around the world, from flooding and earthquakes to pollution and congestion, with a strong emphasis on positive solutions
- I edited and commissioned in-depth and visually stunning feature series exploring Cities from Scratch, South African Cities, Unbuilt Cities, the Next 15 Megacities and the Secret Stans. A feature on water pollution in my Unknown China series won a silver medal from the UN correspondents association. Three features and a film from my Cities in Motion series won awards at the 2019 Active Travel Media Awards. A feature on the astonishing damage done by the global concrete industry won the 2019 Foreign Press Association environment story of the year
- I liaise with home news, international, environment, comment and pictures as well as desks in New York, Oakland and Sydney. I have many years of experience dealing with staff and freelance writers in far-flung countries, including in locations where it can be difficult to work. I collaborate with other editors, designers, graphics, video and audio teams, and work with our social media editors to promote our content across platforms
- I coordinated week-long specials in China, Brazil, Indonesia and India, exploring the environmental, social and economic issues facing residents. We started our social media presence - Twitter, Facebook and Instagram - from scratch and have built one of the most engaged audiences at the Guardian
- As production and special projects editor for four years I pioneered our innovative use of photographs, multimedia and graphics. A skill for writing attention-grabbing headlines and standfirsts helped drive our section traffic above a million page views per week
- I have reported on pollution, sustainable transport and economic development from China, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, the US, Tanzania, South Africa and across Europe
- Used post-grad statistics training to launch and edit the Guardian's Exploring Urban Data series

The Guardian: Assistant production editor, Business/economics (Oct 2006 to Feb 2014)

- Oversaw online production in the Guardian's 25-strong business and economics section, and worked on Guardian and Observer print editions as revise and layout editor when needed. Ran team of staff and casual subs during budgets and autumn statements. Edited news, comment and analysis
- As well as responsibility for producing our digital content, I researched and managed interactive graphics for the Business and Global Development sites. Edited the Datablog as holiday cover

Associated Press: World news desk editor (May 2005 to Sep 2006)

- Senior desk editor in the team brought in under veteran war reporter Robert Reid to set up AP's Global Headlines service. Working on a rolling 24/7 breaking news desk, I worked with writers and photographers around the world, often in conflict or crisis situations

Press Association: Reporter and news editor (Mar 2000 to May 2005)

- I joined PA as a general news reporter before moving up to the news desk during 9/11 and the Afghan and Iraq wars. I worked as a political reporter in the run-up to the general election

Previous experience

- Before post-grad training as a journalist I worked as a cycle courier in London and as an English teacher in Cairo, Guatemala City, Lima and Prague. I got my first journalism job as a trainee reporter on local newspapers covering Soho and Hammersmith

Education and training

MSc in economics, with distinction, from the University of London

XHTML, CSS and Javascript at the University of London and W3Schools

NCTJ post-graduate certificate in journalism

BA (Hons) in economics with philosophy from the University of Nottingham

Skills and interests

- I compete in ultra-distance cycling events and ultramarathons, writing about my experiences in the Guardian and Observer. Recent events include an unsupported 2,500-mile cycle race from the Black Sea in Bulgaria to Brest on the Atlantic coast and the seven-day Gobi March ultramarathon in the remote far west of China. Trained by the British Mountaineering Council as a mountain group leader
- Intermediate Spanish. Working knowledge of French and Italian