



## Panelist Biographies

October 21, 2015, 5-7 pm

Honors Hall Lounge

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### **Nancy Baron**

#### **Panel Moderator**

Director of Science Outreach, COMPASS

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[@Nancy\\_Baron](#)

Nancy Baron is the Director of Science Outreach for COMPASS. Nancy holds workshops around the world for academic, government, and NGO scientists helping them develop core competencies as scientist communicators who want to make their work relevant to journalists, policy makers, and the public. Nancy began her career as a biologist in Banff National Park, spent 6 years as Director of Education at the Vancouver Aquarium, then morphed into journalism. She has won numerous writing awards including the Canadian Science Writers Science in Society and National Magazine awards. An ardent naturalist, she published a popular field guide, *The Birds of Coastal British Columbia* (Lone Pine Publishing) and a "how to" communications guide book for scientists titled *Escape from the Ivory Tower* (Island Press). Nancy received the 2013 Peter Benchley Ocean Award for Excellence in the Media for her work at the intersection of science and journalism.

## Panelists

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### **Ashley Ahearn**

Environmental Reporter, KUOW/NPR, Seattle

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[Ashley Ahearn](#) is an award-winning environment reporter at KUOW/NPR in Seattle and part of the regional multimedia collaborative project [EarthFix](#). Before joining KUOW Ashley was a producer and reporter for *Living on Earth*, a nationally aired environment program from Public Radio International. Her stories regularly appear on *Morning Edition*, *All Things Considered*, *The World*, *Marketplace*, *Here and Now* and other NPR programs.

She has a master's degree in science journalism from the Annenberg School at the University of Southern California and has completed reporting fellowships with MIT, the Vermont Law School, the Metcalf Institute at the University of Rhode Island and the Institutes for Journalism and Natural Resources. In her spare time Ashley enjoys riding vintage motorcycles, snowboarding and hiking in the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges of the Northwest.



## Jeff Burnside

Investigative Reporter, KOMO

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[@JeffBurnside](#)

[Jeff Burnside](#) is a Senior Investigative Reporter with KOMO television, Seattle's ABC station. He's the recipient of more than 25 journalism awards including national honors from the Investigative Reporters and Editors, and the National Press Club, as well as more than a dozen regional Emmy Awards. He's been awarded several working fellowships including the Metcalf Institute, the Transatlantic Reporters

Network and the Western Knight Center for Specialized Journalism at USC Annenberg.

Jeff's interest in environmental reporting has taken him to Berlin, Bali, the Arctic Circle, Panamanian jungles, throughout the Caribbean, Hawaii, and the Everglades. He's reported on climate change, coral reef decline, overfishing, killer whales, biomedical research, and more. He was the first journalist to comprehensively report on the link between Navy sonar and cetaceans, and was the first reporter to broadcast live from inside Aquarius, the undersea research lab near Key Largo. He's worked with the Aldo Leopold Leadership Seminars, Pew Marine Fellows, and the Scripps Institute for Environmental Reporting. He is a Seattle native and is President of the Society of Environmental Journalists.



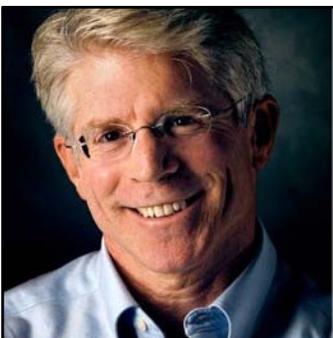
## David Malakoff

Deputy News Editor, Science Magazine

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[David Malakoff](#) is a science writer with Science Magazine in Washington, D.C. where he covers the politics of science and writes about research discoveries in a wide range of fields. He previously served as Editor-in-Chief of Conservation Magazine. And from 2004 to 2008 he was a correspondent and senior editor on NPR's Science Desk, helping steer the network's coverage of science, technology, and the environment.



## Ken Weiss

Freelance Journalist, Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting

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[Kenneth R. Weiss](#), a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, focuses on topics at the intersection of science, environment and public health. He is now writing a book that draws the connections between women's rights and reproductive health with hunger, poverty, national security and environmental decline. The book was inspired by his series, [Beyond 7 Billion](#), published last year in the Los Angeles

Times on the causes and consequences of human population growth. He was the lead reporter for the [Altered Oceans](#) series, which showed how the slow creep of environmental decay often has a more profound impact than cataclysmic natural disasters. Besides winning the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory reporting, Weiss has won the George Polk Award, the Grantham Prize, a Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, the Scripps Howard Foundation's National Journalism Award and many others. He holds a bachelor's degree in folklore from UC Berkeley and lives in Carpinteria, California. Like way too many Californians, he prefers to conduct his own ocean research from his surfboard.