JONATHAN LANDRETH

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Expertise

I'm an independent consultant whose research, analysis, writing and strategy applies my 30 years in journalism to convey complex meaning in accessible language. A sharp manager, I break down tasks and motivate teams to hit deadlines with care and calm.

Work

Director, Research & Communications, Kovrig Group — May 2024–Present
Conducted interviews for Michael Kovrig's forthcoming book and a report on arbitrary detention, lead team of junior researchers, and helped produce communications strategy focused on geopolitical risk, China policy, and global strategic narratives. Developed high-impact written products, shaped public-facing commentary, and supported senior advisory engagements.

Freelance reporter and writer — June 1997–Present
My work has appeared in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Los Angeles Times, National Public Radio, Foreign Policy, The New York Times Magazine, The Christian Science Monitor, The China Economic Quarterly, The South China Morning Post, The China Project, The Wire China, ChinaFile, Virtual China, Forbes, Wallpaper, Marie Claire, The Times (London), Beijing Scene and Management Today.

Editor, The China Project — 2023
Wrote and edited reporting about China in the world, shaping stories about subjects or by young freelance correspondents reporting from Baku, Beijing, Bengaluru, Hong Kong, Istanbul, Lahore, Lima, London, New York, Portland, Singapore, Taipei, and Washington.

Black Land: A Story of Genocide, Exile and Resistance in Modern China — 2022
Ghost wrote Uyghur educator Abduweli Ayup's prison memoir, foreword by Raffi Khatchadourian of The New Yorker.

My Journey Through a Changing China — 2021
Through Gotham Ghostwriters, rewrote millionaire businesswoman Yue-sai Kan's memoir of a media and fashion career spanning the Pacific over forty years.

Made in Hollywood, Censored in Beijing: The U.S. Film Industry and China Government Censorship — 2020
Reported and co-wrote this PEN America white paper.

Toxic Politics: How an Environmental Health Crisis is Undercutting China's Rise — 2019
Reframed and edited Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Huang Yanzhong's deeply researched manuscript for Cambridge University Press.

Media Strategist, Asia Society Policy Institute — Autumn 2018
Built a media strategy for this New York-based think tank led by former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd. Grew the audience via social media, podcasts, and videos.

Managing Editor, ChinaFile, Asia Society — October 2012–May 2018
Co-founded, built, and co-edited the online magazine of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at The Asia Society under Orville Schell, where I shaped the weekly ChinaFile Conversation, wrangling voices from disparate camps into sharp conversation to give readers tools to educate themselves.

Editor in Chief, China Film Insider — June 2015–June 2017
Conceived, designed, staffed, launched, and edited this New York- and Beijing-based website covering China-Hollywood ties backed by art collector, investor, and publisher Larry Warsh.

Asia Editor, The Hollywood Reporter — March 2005–May 2010
Established the first Asia bureau, in Beijing, to cover the boom in Chinese film, TV, Internet, advertising, gaming, celebrity, media regulation, IP Rights, and the 2008 Olympics; hired and managed 13 regional stringers; directed festival coverage in Asia and the Middle East.

Correspondent, Reuters — September 2000–July 2004
I covered the 9/11 attacks and the energy, pharmaceutical, and health industries from New York, and pan-Asia energy and shipping from Singapore.

Inside Chinese Business — Summer 2000
Organized, rewrote, and edited Wharton Business School professor Dr. Ming-jer Chen's 2001 Harvard Business School Press book.

Executive Business Editor, VirtualChina.com — September 1999–September 2000
Helped establish and raise funds for this New York and Beijing-based startup Internet news portal, broke ground covering early Chinese Internet companies under Editor Doug McGill, a New York Times and Bloomberg veteran.

Henry Holt — March 1994–May 1998
Edited non-fiction books on the arts, business, and culture at this private New York publisher under Editor in Chief, Michael Naumann, later Germany's first Minister of Culture.

Media — 2004–Present

I have presented, been interviewed, conducted interviews, and led panel discussions with artists and journalists in entertainment, technology, and education at the following events and organizations:

Beijing: Beijing International Film Festival

Cannes: Cannes Film Festival

Chicago: National Chinese Language Conference

Dubai: Dubai International Film Festival

Hong Kong: Hong Kong International Film Festival

Los Angeles: Schwarzman Scholars; UCLA; US-China Entertainment Summit

New York: Asia Society; CNN; Columbia University; National Committee on US-China Relations; National Public Radio; PBS NewsHour; Rooftop Films; Strand Bookstore; Young China Watchers

Salt Lake City: National Chinese Language Conference

San Diego: National Chinese Language Conference

Seoul: Digital Seoul

Shanghai: Shanghai International Film Festival

Singapore: Asian Television Forum

Tokyo: Tokyo International Film Festival

Education

MS, Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, 1999
BA, University of California, Berkeley, English Literature, 1992

Languages

Conversational Mandarin and basic Spanish and Japanese

Platforms

Claude, ChatGPT, Google Suite, Microsoft 365, WordPress, Drupal, FinalCut Pro, ProTools, Photoshop, Slack, PowerPoint, Hootsuite, TweetDeck

Associations

—Co-founder, Head Coach, Brooklyn Hook Baseball Champions free clinic, 2024-present
—Park Slope Food Coop, working member, 2013-present
—78 Youth Sports baseball coach, 2016-2023
—Foreign Correspondents Club of China, 2005-2012
—Greater West Hollywood Food Coalition, volunteer, 1986-2016