

## Nadia Drake, PhD Science Reporter & Editor

Dr. Nadia Drake is a science journalist, editor, and science communication expert who specializes in covering space exploration and the search for life beyond Earth. She has worked for the top science magazines and newspapers in the United States, including but not limited to National Geographic, The New York Times, Scientific American, Nature, and Science News. Dr. Drake often incorporates field reporting into her science stories, which have included adventures with albino redwoods, jaguars, and large arachnids, and a month on the Arctic Ocean. Her work has been recognized with numerous awards and her advice is sought by NASA, the National Academy of Sciences and others.

*Freelance Science Journalist*, Charlottesville, VA (Present)

- News and feature reporting for *The Atlantic*, BBC Earth, *Nature*, *New Scientist*, *The New York Times*, *The Open Notebook*, *Scientific American*, **WIRED**, including field assignments in Peru, Indonesian Borneo, and Tanzania.

*Consultant*, ETH-Zurich, Switzerland (July 2024-Present)

- Consultant supporting science communication, especially writing and editing, with a focus on training staff and students.

*Interim Physics Editor*, **Quanta Magazine** (2023-2024)

- Edited news and feature stories in all areas of physics, including astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology, fundamental physics, geophysics and quantum physics.
- Commissioned stories from freelancers in addition to working with Quanta staff writers.
- Planned and integrated visual storytelling elements — images, graphics, animations, and videos — into features and news stories.

*Contributing Writer*, **National Geographic** (2014-2023)

- Wrote news, features, and books, including four National Geographic Magazine cover stories; made channel appearances for National Geographic Partners.
- International reporting includes travel in Italy, Norway, Jordan, Hungary, Lebanon, New Zealand, Peru, Russia and the United Arab Emirates.

*Science Reporter*, **WIRED**, San Francisco, CA (2012-2014)

- News and feature reporting in the life and materials sciences, including field assignments in Peru, the Channel Islands, Puerto Rico.

*Astronomy Reporter*, **Science News**, Washington, DC (2011-2012)

- News and feature reporting in astronomy, astrophysics, planetary science, and related fields.

*Reporting Intern*, **Nature**, based in Santa Cruz, CA (Spring 2011)

- General assignment science reporting, including news stories and short research summaries.

*Reporting Intern*, **San Jose Mercury News**, San Jose, CA (Winter 2011)

- Health, science, and environment reporting.

*Reporting Intern*, **Santa Cruz Sentinel**, Santa Cruz, CA (Fall 2010)

- Breaking news, local news, science, features, arts and entertainment reporting.

## HONORS

**Walter M. Sullivan Award for Excellence in Science Writing, Features**, American Geophysical Union (2024)  
For “The Alien Moon Shot,” published October 2023 by National Geographic magazine

**Schramm Award**, High Energy Astrophysics Division, American Astronomical Society (2017)  
For “Found! Gravitational Waves, or a Wrinkle in Spacetime,” published February 2016 by National Geographic

**Eberhart Award**, Division for Planetary Sciences, American Astronomical Society (2016)  
For “Scientists in Flying Telescope Race to Intercept Pluto’s Shadow,” published July 2015 by National Geographic

**Charm Quark**, 3 Quarks Daily (2015)  
For “When Hubble Stared at Nothing for 100 hours,” published April 2015 by National Geographic

**D.C. Science Writers Association Newsbrief Award**, *1<sup>st</sup> Place and Honorable Mention* (2012)  
For “Iapetus Gets Dusted” and “Fruit of Loo,” both published in *Science News*.

## EDUCATION

**UC Santa Cruz**, Science Communication Program, Santa Cruz, CA; *Certificate* (2011)  
• Graduate Division Fellowship; courses in reporting, writing news and features, essays and profiles, social media, multimedia.

**Cornell University**, Graduate School, Ithaca, NY (2004-2009); *PhD* (2009)  
Genetics and Development, studied epigenetics and genomic imprinting  
• Outstanding Student Seminar, 2007; NIH Health Training Grant 2006-2009; Presidential Genomics Fellowship, 2004  
• [Drake et al., 2009](#). Imprint switch mutations at *Rasgrf1* support conflict hypothesis of imprinting and define a growth control mechanism upstream of IGF1. *Mammalian Genome* 20 (654–663)  
• [Drake et al., 2011](#). Imprinted *Rasgrf1* expression in neonatal mice affects olfactory learning and memory. *Genes, Brain & Behavior* 10(4): 392-40

**Cornell University**, College of Arts and Sciences, Ithaca, NY; *A.B.* (2002)  
Biology (concentration in neuroscience), Psychology, Dance  
• Cornell National Scholar, 1998-2002; Dean’s List, 1999-2002; Mortarboard National Senior Honor Society

## OTHER

*Principal Dancer*, **Ithaca Ballet**, Ithaca, NY (2004-2010)  
• Selected roles include Sugar Plum Fairy (“The Nutcracker”), Juliet (“Romeo and Juliet”), Odette/Odile (“Swan Lake”).  
• Directed company rehearsals, staged ballets, taught children’s classes

## **INVITED PANELS AND COMMITTEES**

*Member, Board of Directors*, the SETI Institute (2024-present)

*Mentor, The Open Notebook's* Covering Science at the Local Level peer-mentoring program (2024-present)

- Guide discussions and answer questions about incorporating science into local journalism stories.

*Committee member*, Eric and Wendy Schmidt Science Communication Awards, National Academies of Science (2022-present)

- Responsibilities include selecting award winners in multiple categories (for a total of \$600,000 in prizes) and shaping the competition criteria.

*Final Round Judge*, National Association of Science Writers *Science in Society* awards (2024)

- Evaluated entries in multiple categories, including books, features, and commentary.

*Panel Member*, NASA Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Independent Study Team (2022-2023)

- Appointed as one of a 16-member panel that advised NASA on how to address the issue of UAP.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- National Association of Science Writers