



Karina Sturm

Résumé

 Currently located in Germany
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 Journalism: www.karina-sturm.com
Blog: www.holy-shit-i-am-sick.de
Film: www.we-are-visible-film.com

PROFILE

Karina is a multi-media journalist and filmmaker from Germany currently residing in the US. She gained significant scientific knowledge through studying laboratory technology and working in research for several years. Due to a chronic illness and invisible disability, she found her passion for media production and has been working as a freelance journalist since 2013. In 2019, she finished her Master's degree by producing a feature-length documentary called "We Are Visible" to highlight how to improve reporting on people with disabilities in media. "We Are Visible" has won several movie awards, while Karina graduated with distinction from her journalism program. Karina's main focus is to represent people with illnesses and disabilities accurately in the media to reduce biases and stereotypes. She thinks disabled journalists should be reporting on disability.

SUMMARY

- 8 YEARS **Experience as a freelance writer/journalist**
focusing on improving the representation of people living with chronic illnesses and disabilities in media
- 5 YEARS **Experience as a lab technician**
*researching bacterial effector proteins, in particular *SiiE* from *Salmonella**
- 4 YEARS **Experience as a medical assistant**
including care for chronically ill people

ACADEMIC DEGREES

- JULY 2020 **Master of Art with Distinction in International Journalism for Media Professionals**
*Edinburgh Napier University
Scotland*

AWARDS

- 2020 **We Are Visible - Film Awards**
LA Film Awards, New York Film Awards, Festigious Film Awards, Oniros Film Awards, Florence Film Awards, Druk International Film Festival, Tagore International Film Festival, Accolade Global Film Competition, Impact DOCS Awards, Docs Without Borders Festival, (www.we-are-visible-film.com)
- 2020 **Class Medal Winner**
Edinburgh Napier University; Class medal for outstanding journalistic and academic work across the board

PUBLICATIONS

ABILITY Magazine (US), Ärzte Woche (Austria), The Mighty (US), Columbia Journalism Review (US), Raul Krauthausen (Germany), Belo Cipriani (US), Leading Medicine Guide (Germany), Springer (Germany), Süddeutsche Zeitung (Germany), BMJ Medical Humanities (US)

WORK EXPERIENCE

JUNE 2013 – PRESENT
Journalist and Filmmaker

Combining my scientific background with my personal experiences as a journalist living with a chronic illness and invisible disability in order to educate about and raise awareness for a variety of health conditions and disabilities, and writing of academic publications and reviews of medical conditions.

2009 – 2012

Biotechnology University of Erlangen
Laboratory Technician

Researching bacterial effector proteins, in particular SiiE from Salmonella with a main focus in chromatography, cultivation of bacterial expression systems, protein biochemistry and crystallography, lectures and presentations, lab management, support for students, documentation and review of results in scientific publications.

2006 – 2009

Laboratory Technician School Nuremberg
Student

Three-year standardized study as a laboratory technician at the Staatliche Berufsfachschule B8 in Nürnberg, Germany Final grade: 1.04 (resembles 21 subjects with grade A, one subject with grade B) Exam: 1.3 (grade A) Resulted in admission to a program that supports students with extraordinary talents.

2002 – 2006

Medical Assistant Neumarkt
Student; Permanent Position

Dr. Bauer/ Ehrengut/ Wonka in Neumarkt, Germany Final grade: 1.33 (resembles grade A) Exam: 1.7 (resembles grade B) With a main focus in caring for complex, mostly chronically ill patients, guidance and examination of diabetic patients, diagnostic testing such as ECG, geriatric diagnostics, vital parameters, cancer screening, assistance during outpatient surgeries, phlebotomy, injections, office hygiene.

COURSES

2017 **Journalism SGD**
Finished with Grade 1; resembles A

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

GERMAN Native speaker
ENGLISH TOEFL Score 119/120 in 2017

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

2017 – TODAY **Volunteer at Laguna Honda Hospital in San Francisco**

As part of the Activity Department, I visit residents and spend time with them

2014 – TODAY **Advocate for people living with Ehlers-Danlos syndrome**

And sharing my experiences on my German blog www.holy-shit-i-am-sick.de

SPECIAL SKILLS

BASIC HTML, FileZilla, Scrivener

GOOD MS Office (Word, Excel, Power Point); Apple Pages, Numbers, Keynote; WordPress, Social Media, YouTube; Video production including filming and editing; closed captions and descriptive audio for the blind; Podcasting, Blogging, SEO, Editing; Academic writing, Research