

# JES THERKELSEN

Documentary Storyteller, Filmmaker, Photographer, Educator

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Assistant/Associate Professor, Media Storytelling

California State University, Fresno, CA, 2012–Present

- Develop and teach media production and storytelling
- Produce, shoot, edit independent documentaries for festival/broadcast distribution

### Photographer & Filmmaker

National Geographic Student Expeditions, 2009–Present

- Leads intensive photography and film workshops for high school students around the world.
- Provide photographs and video material for Expeditions and Traveler online distribution

### jestherkelsen.com

Media Storyteller, 2005–present

- Produce, shoot and edit short and long form documentary video for variety of platforms.

### Filmmaker-in-Residence

College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, 2010-2012

- Taught courses to undergraduate students, produced documentary media, published pedagogy blog

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2015 Faculty Fellow, Television Academic of Arts and Sciences, LA  
2010 Filmmaker-in-Residence Fellowship, Mellon Foundation, VA  
2009 Young Artist Fellowship, D.C. Commission on the Arts, DC  
2008 Advocacy Project Humanitarian Fellowship, Kathmandu, Nepal  
2008 Future Public Media Grant, Ford Foundation, NY  
2007 Film & Fiction Fellow, Institute for Humane Studies, NY  
2007 Flaherty Film Fellow, Flaherty Film Foundation, NY  
2006 National Gallery of Art Fellowship, Washington, DC  
2002 Fulbright Teaching Fellowship, Athens, Greece

## HONORS & AWARDS

2015 *Social Tactics*, Best of Festival, Broadcast Education Association  
2015 *Jerry Brown's Bucking Bulls*, International Documentary Challenge Finalist  
2008 *Best Part of Everything*, Cine Golden Eagle, Best Production

## SKILLS

Traditional & DSLR Video Production & Editing  
Photography, Photoshop, Lightroom  
Audio, Audition  
CSS/HTML, Wordpress, CMS  
Adobe Creative Cloud  
Innovation, Creativity, Entrepreneurship

## LANGUAGES

English, Spanish (rudimentary)

## COUNTRIES TRAVELED

Australia, Austria, Bali, Belgium, Bhutan, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Fiji, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Laos, Macau, Namibia, Nepal, Puerto Rico, Russia, Scotland, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, The Netherlands

## HIGHLIGHTS

*The Best Part of Everything* (2005) premiered at San Francisco Documentary Festival

*Clean Hands Project* (2008) media campaign fought caste-based discrimination in Nepal and improved Dalit rights

*Jerry Brown's Bucking Bulls* (2014) premiered at SlamDance Film Festival

*Chinatown* (2015) and *Fresno to Fiji* (2015) premiered on regional PBS

## EDUCATION

**M.B.A.**, summa cum laude  
California State University, Fresno, CA  
**M.F.A.**, summa cum laude  
Film & Media Arts, American University, DC  
**B.A.**, magna cum laude  
Geology, Amherst College, MA