

**For further information, contact:**

Maya Brod, 301-280-5757

[mbrod@burness.com](mailto:mbrod@burness.com)

## **Two Freelance Journalists Awarded \$100,000 for Reporting on Overlooked Communities in the U.S.**

*Rebecca Nagle and Darcy Courteau were named the recipients of the third annual American Mosaic Journalism Prize for uncovering stories about Native peoples, migrants, and “hidden” American communities*

Los Altos, Calif. (February 5, 2020) – The Heising-Simons Foundation announced today that freelance journalists Rebecca Nagle and Darcy Courteau are the recipients of the 2020 American Mosaic Journalism Prize, which includes an unrestricted cash prize of \$100,000. This is one of the largest dollar amounts given for a journalism award in the United States.

Nagle’s journalism includes the Crooked Media podcast, “This Land,” which explores Native American rights, and Courteau’s includes a June 2019 feature in *The Atlantic*, “Mireya’s Third Crossing,” about an undocumented immigrant’s harrowing journeys across the U.S.-Mexico border.

The Prize is awarded for excellence in long-form, narrative, or deep reporting about underrepresented and/or misrepresented groups in the United States. It recognizes journalism’s ability to foster understanding and aims to support freelance journalists.

Nagle is a writer, audio journalist, and advocate, based in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. A citizen of the Cherokee Nation, she frequently writes about Native American issues including tribal sovereignty, representation in culture and media, cultural appropriation, and violence against women. She is the creator and host of the podcast “This Land,” which focused on the case of *Carpenter v. Murphy*, a U.S. Supreme Court case about the treaty and land rights of five tribes in Oklahoma.

“Though our stories are foundational to this country, most often contemporary Native Americans are erased from the news and mainstream media,” Nagle said. “With ‘This Land’ I wanted listeners to learn not only about one Supreme Court case, but about tribal sovereignty and the ongoing fight for Native rights in this country. I am humbled and honored to get this award and hope it serves as an example to media outlets and editors that people are ready to hear Native stories.”

Courteau is a writer and photo essayist based in Washington, D.C. and the rural Arkansas Ozarks. Among her enduring subjects are the outsider communities she has made home. She has written about the Ozarks, life in a low-income, high-crime neighborhood in D.C., and dog sledding in the Alaskan wilderness. Her long-form story “Mireya’s Third Crossing” follows a Mexican woman on her journey to attain a visa after living unauthorized in the U.S. for 25 years.

“I’m interested in how economic and political forces bear on individual lives,” Courteau said. “But more than that I’m interested in our relationships to faith, work, land, and animals, what we’ll barter for some

freedom, and how we come to terms with solitude. I'm grateful to those people, many of them very private, who have revealed their stories to me."

The prize is based on confidential nominations invited from more than 100 leaders in journalism throughout the country. A panel of 10 judges—including journalists from the Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times, the Boston Globe, NPR, VICE News, the Oxford American, Columbia University, and Arizona State University—selected the recipients.

For more information about the American Mosaic Journalism Prize, visit <https://www.hsfoundation.org/prize>.

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### **The 2020 American Mosaic Journalism Prize Judges**

**Eliza Borne**

Editor  
Oxford American

**Stephanie Foo**

Freelance Journalist & Former Producer  
"This American Life"

**Samuel G. Freedman**

Professor of Journalism  
Columbia University

**Jaweed Kaleem**

National Race and Justice Reporter  
Los Angeles Times

**Antonia Hylton**

Correspondent and Producer  
VICE News Tonight

**Wesley Lowery**

National Reporter  
The Washington Post

**Deanna Pan**

Features and Enterprise Reporter  
The Boston Globe

**Fernanda Santos**

Professor, Walter Cronkite School of Journalism  
and Mass Communication  
Arizona State University

**Abe Streep**

Freelance Journalist  
2019 Recipient  
American Mosaic Journalism Prize

**Keith Woods**

Chief Diversity Officer  
NPR

### **About the Heising-Simons Foundation**

The Heising-Simons Foundation is a family foundation based in Los Altos and San Francisco, California. The Foundation works with its many partners to advance sustainable solutions in climate and clean energy, enable groundbreaking research in science, enhance the education of our youngest learners, and support human rights for all people. For more information visit, [www.hsfoundation.org](http://www.hsfoundation.org).