

# LAURA NICKOLL

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## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Recent publications I have contributed to and co-authored include *Where Chefs Eat*, *Where to Eat Pizza*, *The Science of Spice* and *The Vegan Kitchen*.

As a freelance editor, I specialise in non-fiction illustrated titles, particularly food, cookery, lifestyle and television tie-ins. An experienced, dedicated and focused project manager and copy editor, I steer through fast-track projects with a cool head and persistent eye for detail, and am a positive and effective communicator with a valuable contacts book.

Recent copy-edits include Nuno Mendes' *Chiltern Firehouse*, Phaidon's *The Garden Chef*, Rosie Birkett's *The Joyful Home Cook*, Dr Rupy Aujla's *The Doctor's Kitchen*, *Pinch of Nom* and the *Borough Market Cookbook*.

Recent projects include Ed Brooke-Hitching's *The Phantom Atlas* and *The Golden Atlas*, Philip Wilkinson's *Phantom Architecture* and *Great America Railroad Journeys*.

### Key skills

- Project management: particularly cookery, front-list and tv tie-in titles
- Copy editing
- Copy writing: particularly food writing
- Commissioning

## WORK HISTORY

September 2011 – present

### Freelance project manager, copy editor and food writer

Clients include HarperCollins, Orion, Hardie Grant, The National Portrait Gallery, Phaidon, Simon & Schuster, Dorling Kindersley and Ebury Press.

September 2011 – present

### Restaurant inspector and reviewer

Nov 2006 – September 2011

### Senior editor, Dorling Kindersley, Penguin Group

I managed illustrated cookbook projects, ensuring that they ran smoothly, on budget and to schedule. Leading a team, the editorial integrity and purpose of a book was my primary concern. Trusted to handle key titles, I proved myself adept at planning effective workflows, maintaining momentum and energising the team.

I was always on the lookout for new authors and creative talent, and worked closely with the publisher to bring them into the DK fold, approaching and commissioning them for key titles.

The largest project I managed involved 4 photography teams in 3 countries, 9 authors and 12 consultants, alongside freelance editors and designers. I commissioned the authors, trimmed the original budget and art directed photoshoots both here and abroad.

Embracing digital technology, and the profound effect it is having on the book business, I thrived on developing ideas for transforming backlist material into valuable digital content.

My communication skills proved a particularly strong asset when negotiating with authors and agents, and liaising with high-profile individuals.

As a mentor and manager of junior editors, I helped them develop sound editorial skills, identify their assets and areas of potential improvement, and encouraged creativity and self confidence.

Titles I project-managed include: *Mary Berry's Complete Cookbook*, *The Cook's Book of Ingredients*, *Cook Express*, *The Cooking Book* and the *Great British Menu Cookbook*.

Oct 2004 – Oct 2006

**Editorial assistant and project editor, BBC Books**

Jan 2003 – Aug 2004

**Foreign rights assistant – Thames & Hudson Ltd., London**

Oct 2000 – Sep 2002

**Assistant editor and project editor, Keesing's Worldwide Ltd.,  
Cambridge Current Affairs Publishing Company**

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Higher Education** 1997–2000 The University of Kent at Canterbury, 2:1 BA (Hons)  
English Literature and Theology

**Copy Editing** qualification from The Publishing Training Centre at Book House

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Computing:** PC and MAC proficient. Literate in InDesign, Photoshop, SAP and Excel.

**Graduate Record Examination:** Merit (Summer 2000)

**Music Awards:** Cello (Grade 8), Music Theory (Grade 8)