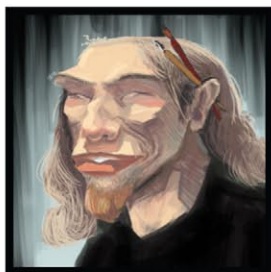


## Erik Thurman • Journalist



Born in California, USA, Erik Thurman's experience traveling throughout his youth has offered him the opportunity to live in three countries, while acquiring an affinity for languages, politics, and foreign affairs. In the past, he has investigated political kidnappings of university students in the Philippines, covered economic inequality and protests in China, worked as a teacher in a South Korean orphanage to illuminate neoliberalism policies in education, and reported on migrant labor abuse and modern day slavery in Qatar, in addition to other current events. He has abundant experience covering current sociopolitical issues in various countries, combining prose and illustration to formulate newsworthy, long-form investigative journalism geared toward a wide audience. Trained in analyzing and researching complex issues, extremely resourceful, and has formed many contacts with NGOs, government organizations, and activists throughout the world. Some of his accomplishments have include:

- Acquired employment as a teacher in three countries in order to investigate the rise in unaffordability and inaccessibility of global public education, in a series of three books.
- Conducted interviews with the Kabataan Partylist at the 16th Filipino Congress, Manila.
- Worked with members of Amnesty International and The Qatar Foundation to report on labor abuses in Qatar.
- Interviewed faculty at the University of the Philippines Diliman, along with individuals affiliated with DepEd, CHED, and TESDA, about the Filipino K-12 education program and school vouchers.

His hobbies include backpacking, drinking coffee, and fighting corruption, and he currently claims the rooftops of Seoul his home. In 2015, his work on his graphic memoir, *The American Immigrant*, was nominated for a Reportager Award.

### Publications

- 2016 **Myanmar's Rohingya Muslims**, The Nib.
- 2015 **Writing About Minorities, For Non-Minorities**, Rate Your Story.  
**Online Comic Inspired by Hong Kong's Fight for Democracy**, Localliz.  
**Umbrella Blackout: China's War On Digital Activism**, Medium.  
**Umbrella Blackout (Chinese Version)**, Pao-Pao.
- 2014 **A Debt-To-Slave Pipeline is Building You a World Cup Stadium**, Medium.
- 2013 **The Intellectual Ramblings of Samuel Flower**, Self-Published.  
**The Open Key**, The Illustrated Press / Huffington Post.

### Anthologies

- 2015 **Eat More Comics**, The Nib
- 2014 **Grassroot Comics**, World Comics India
- 2013 **Pear Tree**, Cartoonists in Korea Anthology  
**Seoul Grind**, The Cartoon Picayune, Issue #5
- 2012 **What Haunts Us**, 8th Wonder Press, Uncanny Mysteries Anthology
- 2011 **An American's Toilet Paper Nightmare in Southeast Asia**, The Red Fez, Issue #49  
**The Barriers to Higher Education**, Reed Magazine, Volume #65

### Education

- 2015 **Geumgang University**, Nonsan-si, Chungnam-do, South Korea  
Korean Language, Special Course.
- 2008-11 **San Jose State University**, San Jose, California, USA.  
Studio Art (Pictorial Studies), Bachelors of Arts.
- 2011 **Bridge Linguatex, Inc.**, Denver, Colorado, USA.  
Teaching English as a Foreign Language, Diploma.

### Awards and Nominations

- 2015 **Nomination for the Reportager Award**, UWE, Bristol, UK.

### Teaching Experience

- 2013-15 **Aloysius Elementary School and Orphanage**, Seoul, South Korea  
English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- 2011-12 **Taereung High School**, Seoul, South Korea  
English as a Foreign Language Teacher
- 2009-11 **Caduang Tete National High School**, Caduang Tete, Pampanga, Philippines  
Humanities and Arts Teacher
- 2011 **East San Jose School District**, San Jose, California, USA.  
Coordinator for Extracurricular Arts Program

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