

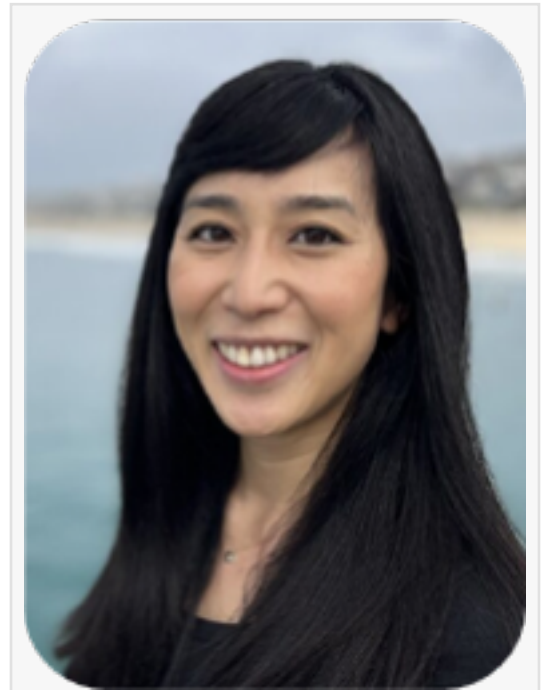
# American Energy Society selects Rosanna Xia as Energy Writer of the Year, 2024

*Xia wins the premier literary award for energy because her work offers new ways for us to think about resiliency and our relationship with the environment.*

PALO ALTO, CA, UNITED STATES, December 2, 2024

[/EINPresswire.com/](https://EINPresswire.com/) -- 2024 was yet another year of extreme weather in the US and around the world. After making landfall on the coast of Florida on September 27, hurricane Helene swept across the Southeastern US, causing extensive damage and loss of life throughout parts of Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina, regions recently considered climate havens.

This is the new normal. The US mid-Atlantic region is now at greater risk, as well as the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe (record-breaking heatwaves), Central Asia (extreme rainfall caused massive landslides in Nepal), the Sahel of West and North-Central Africa (catastrophic flooding), and so on.



Rosanna Xia, AES Energy Writer of the Year 2024

Xia is an environmental reporter for the Los Angeles Times, where she specializes in stories at the intersection of human ambition and the forces of nature. She is the author of [California](#)

[Against the Sea](#), an award-winning 2023 book that examines how the Golden State, as a prescient lesson for the rest of the world, is confronting (and not confronting) the realities of extreme weather and the changing climate; the paperback came out in September 2024, and it was recently named the winner of this year's prestigious PEN/E.O. Wilson Literary Science Writing Award. This year, Xia also released *Out of Plain Sight*, a feature documentary film that expands upon her investigative reporting that as many as half a million barrels of toxic waste were quietly dumped into the ocean decades ago, just off the coast of Los Angeles.

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I am grateful for this recognition ... and for the opportunity to have a conversation about the messes of our past and how we might live in better relationship with our environment going forward.”

*Rosanna Xia*

Although she centers her lens on California in her journalism, book, and film, Xia's reporting on mitigation and adaptation has meaning for everyone everywhere. With continued reliance on a carbon-based economy and its impact on extreme weather and environmental disaster comes added challenges. Some are self-induced, like the affects of engineered landscapes, the market pressures of development, and the ecological activism and political scimmages that have carved up our contemporary shorelines. We've added layers of crisis, all the while thinking that we've made things better and more secure. Xia inspires us to look for more sustainable ways forward.

For instance, in *California Against the Sea*, Xia shares a rich tapestry of competing views that tell a larger story about resiliency, from the concerns of Indigenous leaders to the visions of community activists, as well as the wide variety of well-meaning solutions implemented by small-town mayors, urban engineers, and tenacious environmental scientists. Xia helps readers understand each rivaling argument, agreement, and compromise. Knowing that we have not transitioned away from a carbon-based economy, her work explores what it might take to forge a climate-wiser future for humanity.

AES editors appreciate the great need for a lower-carbon economy, but that objective garners far more attention than the equally urgent need to address matters of resiliency. Xia's work is a clarion call to elevate this second concern. She knows that solutions like "managed retreat" and "adaptation" are daunting and can seem like surrender. Yet, she presents a different course of action than we are taking right now, one in which we think and act faster and more collaboratively, rather than following the more common course of avoidance or rushing to judgement and then suffering the consequences of self-destructive solutions.

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The image features the American Energy Society logo, a blue globe with white lines and dots, positioned to the left of the text "AMERICAN ENERGY SOCIETY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below the logo and text is the name "American Energy Society" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. In the center, there are two book covers. The left cover is for the book "California Against the Sea" by Rosanna Xia, featuring a blue and white abstract design with the subtitle "VISIONS FOR OUR VANISHING COASTLINE". The right cover is for the film "OUT OF PLAIN SIGHT", featuring a dark, textured background with the title in white, bold, sans-serif font. The film cover also includes a quote from Ed Yong and a quote from Scott Z. Burns.

Xia's reporting on mitigation and adaptation has meaning for everyone everywhere.

## About this award

According to Eric Vettel, president of [American Energy Society](#), "As always, we received many nominations for great writers who deserve the premier literary award for energy. But we selected Rosanna Xia as the [Energy Writer of the Year](#) for her thoughtful approach, balanced treatment of competing ideas, extraordinary grasp of enormous subjects, and in recognition of all her literary contributions, from news articles to non-fiction books to documentaries too."

## About the award winner

Rosanna Xia is an environmental reporter for the Los Angeles Times, where she specializes in stories about the coast and ocean. She has been praised for her investigative reporting and narrative storytelling, and her breadth of work includes the award-winning book, *California Against the Sea*, as well as the highly anticipated feature documentary film, *Out of Plain Sight*, which she directed and produced. In 2020, Xia was named a Pulitzer Prize finalist for her reporting on sea level rise, and her work has been anthologized in the Best American Science and Nature Writing series.

## Previous AES Energy Writers of the Year:

- 2023: Philip Verleger (and his long-time editor Kim Pederson), *Notes at the Margin*
- 2022: Amy Harder, *Cipher*
- 2021: Katharine Hayhoe, *Saving Us*
- 2020: Daniel Yergin, *The New Map*
- 2019: Vaclav Smil, *Growth: From Microorganisms to Megacities*
- 2018: Nathaniel Rich, "Losing Earth," *The New York Times Magazine*
- 2017: Meghan O'Sullivan, *Windfall*
- 2016: Mark Mills, "Shale 2.0"
- 2015: Coral Davenport, *The New York Times*

## About American Energy Society

American Energy Society (AES) is an independent association of more than 135,000 professionals from every energy and sustainability sector. Through a variety of services and programs, AES supports its Members with recognized publications like *Energy Today* and *Energy Matters*, updates on groundbreaking discoveries, and notifications about upcoming conferences, funding and awards, job openings, and more.

To learn more about AES, visit [www.energysociety.org](http://www.energysociety.org). Or, credentialed media can contact AES for more information about this literary award or its previous winners.

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