

Eliana Loza Schiano
Journalist

Born in Caracas, when Venezuela was becoming a "melting pot".
Proud of my Italian blood and glad to be born and brought up in such a different land, because the mixture in my cultural background gave me a wider horizon.

Journalism was not an early vocation. When the time to decide what to study at the university was approaching, I had no idea what I should choose, I liked so many things and my personality always tends to indecision. I loved music above all, but lacked talent. Humanities was my obvious direction, but few possibilities of jobs. Also a Diplomatic career appealed to me for a while, until I realized that the way to reach the stage of Ambassador was too boring, bureaucracy and "recommendations" were not for me!

A solution, at least temporary, came when I saw the program of "Social Communication", the official name of Journalism in the U.C.A.B (Universidad Católica Andrés Bello), which had many different subjects --literature, arts, theatre, languages, philosophy, politics, history, PR and publicity, TV and radio production, sociology, communication, etc.-- Fantastic! I would have an approach to many subjects, even if in a superficial way, but that would help me understand what I really liked, after all I was young enough to eventually change faculty to a more "serious" one.

Well, no need to change faculty! I liked almost all what I studied and even when my mother declared I was "too shy to be a good journalist", I went on to graduation... but my aspirations of producing cultural programs for radio and TV were soon replaced by another destiny. When in my first job at the official Venezuelan news agency (Venpres) the director, a severe German who was organizing the new team, asked me what area of information I felt more suitable for me... "Culture!", I said without hesitation. "No, no, no", he said without any possibility of contradiction, "I want you to cover Foreign Affairs, languages are useful there!".

And that's it, since then I've been traveling in many countries and covering the international news. After Venpres, the United Press International (UPI). Later, daily newspapers "El Nacional", covering mainly Europe, "Economía Hoy", where I was chief editor for the International Section, and now as a correspondent for "El Universal" covering Italy and the Vatican.