

# Girish Gupta

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## summary

I am an analytical thinker who combines solid training as a physicist with tenacious entrepreneurship and creativity. My innovative streak has been applied to everything from programming and tech startups to investigative and multimedia journalism, including TV, radio and photography. As a freelancer, I worked with over 40 news outlets including *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times* in hostile environments across Latin America and the Middle East, with a base in Venezuela. I then joined *Reuters* as a Senior Correspondent there. After seven years in the field, I am switching focus to tech and science. I'll be expanding my successful apps as well as seeking new opportunities.

## work

### Creator, *Venezuela Econ*

December 2014 – Present

- Created an iOS, Android and web app that provides live economic data on Venezuela's meltdown. The one-person operation is the first time Venezuela-watchers can witness the collapse of the local currency and hyperinflation in real time — as well as historic data going back more than half a century.
- The apps are used by some 14,000 people, including politicians, investors, and people on the street.
- Backend in PHP and MySQL to produce an API which delivers data in JSON to website in PHP, JavaScript and HTML, iOS app written in Swift and Android app written in Java. Implemented Bootstrap, ShinobiCharts, amCharts, Kvitto, Google Firebase and Google AdMob libraries, as well as the Stripe payment API.

### Senior Correspondent, *Reuters*, based in Caracas

June 2015 – March 2018

- Revealed the results of a Venezuelan election were fabricated; secrets about the country's opaque military; that the country's Chief Justice was arrested on suspicion of killing a teen and tried to persuade a judge to release a suspected arms/drug trafficker; and high-level, multi-billion dollar corruption at Venezuela's state oil company.
- Produced text, photos and TV pieces on Venezuela's social decay, including food riots, protests and looting.
- Also worked extensively in Washington, New York, and across Latin America to build investigative sources including spies, defectors and their global networks, as well as White House and U.S. intelligence officials, which led to a number of major scoops and investigations.
- Optimized bureau workflow by writing code to automate story-writing and social media.
- Helped coordinate bureau security.
- Worked also in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, and Costa Rica.

### Freelance journalist, *Reuters*, *New Yorker*, *New York Times*, *BBC*, *TIME*, *NPR...*, based in Caracas, briefly Mexico City

October 2010 – May 2015

- Produced text, photos, video, and radio in Venezuela, as well as Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Guyana, Jordan, Lebanon, Peru, and Mexico.
- Covered the cancer, election and death of Venezuela's Hugo Chávez, and the messy transition to Nicolás Maduro's rule and the crisis that followed. This included violent unrest which I covered daily on the streets as well as the manifestations of a distorted and inflationary economy.
- Investigated diamond smuggling from illegal jungle mines in the Amazon, Glencore's involvement with Colombian paramilitaries, and the killing of wildcat gold miners linked to a large multinational there.
- Conducted on-the-ground investigations for firms such as *Control Risks* and *K2 Intelligence*.

### Creator, *Music Goes On*

May 2000 – November 2001

- Built a popular music website which *MTV* listed as one of the then nascent web's top 20 sources for news and reviews, alongside *Billboard* and *VH1*.
- Written in PHP and MySQL, with HTML, CSS and JavaScript for the frontend.
- Assembled computers and wrote basic *Windows* programs in Delphi and C++, including a browser, instant messenger, BPM counter, and word processor.

## education

### Physics (MPhys) at *University of Manchester*, England

September 2006 – June 2010

- Abstract to my Master's project — a computer simulation of the heart exploring the causes of atrial fibrillation — published in the *Proceedings of The Physiological Society*. Bachelor's project on the negative index of refraction.
- News editor of the *Mancunian* student newspaper.
- Member of British Army *Officers' Training Corps*. First aid, weapons handling, leadership, and military tactics.
- Interned at various news outlets, including the *Guardian* and *The Times of London*, and worked various bar jobs.

### Natural Sciences: Math, Physics, Chemistry and Geology at *King's College*, *Cambridge University*, England

September 2005 – June 2006

- Social Secretary at *Cambridge University Canoe Club*.
- Enjoyed academia but did not enjoy the small city and social life so transferred to Manchester.

### Math, Physics, Chemistry and Biology at *Burnham Grammar School*, England

September 2003 – June 2005

- Physics projects included a flash-rate monitor and a research project on Special Relativity.
- Worked also at *Ottakar's* bookshop and various bar, waiting jobs.

## languages

Fluent **Spanish**, basic to intermediate **Arabic**, and native understanding of **Hindi** and **Punjabi**.