Panelists to Discuss Europe’s Past and Present 30 Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall

EVENT PREVIEW: OCT. 30

BY PATRICIA KRANZ

On Nov. 9, 1989, the world watched in amazement as East Germans streamed through and over the Berlin Wall to cross into West Berlin, with Berliners from both sides of the city celebrating atop the Wall. The collapse of this iconic symbol of the East-West divide was not an isolated incident but the culmination of a series of political upheavals throughout the region that year. Taken together, they marked the beginning of the end of the Soviet empire and the Cold War. Journalists who covered those historic events and their aftermath will share their experiences with OPC members on Oct. 30 and offer insights into the future of Europe and global security.

The program is open to all. The OPC invites any journalists who covered Europe and the Soviet Union to come and reconnect with former colleagues and friends. The event gets underway at Club Quarters at 6:00 p.m., and a reception with light hors d’oeuvres and cash bar will follow from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Visit opcoamerica.org to RSVP.

Panelists include:

Continued on Page 4

OPC Member Reports from Front Lines in Hong Kong

BY CHAD BOUCHARD

OPC MEMBER Suzanne Sataline has witnessed turmoil in Hong Kong from close range while covering protests, and experienced firsthand how police are targeting and intimidating journalists.

She wrote an extensive piece for The Atlantic recounting how over the last five months, “police tactics have grown more sudden, more violent, and more arbitrary against civilian demonstrators and the press.”

Sataline is a freelance writer and editor based in Hong Kong and New York, and has been an OPC member since October 2016. She said in an email that the OPC’s press ID helped her during a scuffle with Hong Kong police to identify her as an American journalist, and that “ultimately, the credentials got me released.”

But as she wrote in The Atlantic, Hong Kong colleagues working for local press are not faring as well as they bear most of the brunt of police pressure and violence.

However, international journalists like herself still face intimidation, she said.

Sataline recounted escalating police tactics since June when protests began, when police at first would simply move journalists away from protesters, using lights or strobes to disrupt video devices.

Continued on Page 4
William J. Holstein Urges US to Boost Defenses Against China’s Campaign of Tech Theft

**BY CHAD BOUCHARD**

PC PAST President William J. Holstein wrote an op-ed piece for The Wall Street Journal warning that the recent arrest of a California tourist couple on espionage charges is only a symptom of Beijing’s wider tech espionage campaign. His piece follows news that the U.S. Justice Department arrested Peng Xuehua for allegedly funneling classified American secrets to China’s Ministry of State Security. He noted that FBI Director Christopher Wray said in July that most of the agency’s 1,000 active investigations into intellectual property theft involved China.

“Beijing’s tech theft is a danger to every American and every opponent of the Chinese Communist Party,” Holstein wrote. “The line between commercial and military technology is often blurry – artificial intelligence, for instance, has many commercial and military uses. The party has also directly gone after military secrets. The Navy secretary said in March that his branch and its commercial partners are under ‘cyber siege’ by China.”

Holstein outlines several tech theft cases that came to light in 2019, including fraud charges against Bo Mao, a professor in Texas, for allegations that he stole solid-state-drive technology from CNEX Labs, the conviction of Yi-Chi Shih, an adjunct professor from the University of California, on charges that he hacked systems of a company that makes circuits that use nanowire frequencies to power elements; a lawsuit from Tesla Inc. accusing former engineer Guangzhi Cao of copying 300,000 company files before taking a job at a Chinese self-driving car startup, Xioonge Motors; and news that the FBI and Justice Department busted a four-year hacking operation from the group APT10 out of Tianjin that worked for two years to access to IBM and the U.S. Navy.

Holstein called for the U.S. to harness our comprehensive plan to fight tech espionage. He blasted the Trump administration for shortchanging this front, noting that recent negotiations with Beijing make no mention of China’s hacking and spying.

“It will require Manhattan Project-like intensity and focus to harden America’s information-technology systems. It will take years and cost billions of dollars,” he said. “U.S. government agencies will have to ask for Congress for bigger budgets.”

Christopher Dickey Calls Trump ‘Delusional’ on Syria Withdrawal

**BY CHAD BOUCHARD**

PC SECONC Vice President Christopher Dickey has blasted President Donald Trump’s decision to green-light a massive Turkish incursion against Syria’s Kurds. Dickey wrote that “many of them were incredulous” and “horribly happy with this solution” that “saved their lives,” and called it a “taboo love approach.”

“He’s delusional,” Dickey said, adding that in 2014 when ISIS was rolling into Iraq, Syria and up to the Turkish border “the only soldiers who stood in its way, who held their ground against all odds, were exactly the same Kurds that Trump just betrayed. Dickey wrote about several knock-on effects from the U.S. withdrawal in a series of pieces written for The Daily Beast, some of which were co-authored with colleagues.

He and national security correspondent Spencer Ackerman wrote about how Kurds were forced to turn to Russia for protection from Turkish forces. “It was a growing humanitarian crisis, and expressed dismay that Turkey’s invasion of Syria could revive ISIS and reverse hard-fought gains,” calling it a “deflection.”

Dickey reported that Turkey was working with ISIS to target Europe, which Trump dismissed as a problem for Europeans and not the U.S.

“President Donald Trump’s decision to green-light a massive Turkish incursion against Syria’s Kurds has been widely condemned as an emboldening of ISIS and its supporters in Europe,” Dickey wrote. “It has been described as a ‘brutal blowback’ from a decade of U.S. support for the Kurds.”

On Oct. 6, the White House announced that U.S. forces would withdraw from the border to make way for a “long-planned” invasion from Turkey. Trump warned that he would “totally destroy and obliterate” Turkey’s economy if the country did anything “that I, in my great and unmatched wisdom, consider to be off limits.”

“With backing from Turkey, a loosely organized band of Syrian rebels linked to extremist groups, known as the Free Syrian Army, or FSA, launched an assault on northeastern Syria. The group executed nearly 15 murders and killed unarmed civilians as well as Kurdish fighters of the Syrian Democratic Forces, or SDF.”

“Callimachi noted the next day that the U.S. had recently asked Kurds to remove fortifications they had installed along the Turkish border, calling the move “a whole other level of betrayal.” She also pointed out that ISIS had launched an attack in Raqqa, saying that “more of ISIS would be back, but I have to say I didn’t think it would be this soon.”

Callimachi also highlighted commentary from Washington Post
Continued From Page 1

The program will include a presentation of photos of the event by David Turnley and his brother Peter Turnley. David is a photographer who won the Pulitzer Prize for his work in 1989 covering the fall of the Berlin Wall and other revolutions that year. He has won three OPC awards, including the Robert Capa Gold Medal in 1999 for covering revolutions in Romania and China for Black Star and the Detroit Free Press. Peter’s photos have been on the cover of Newsweek magazine numerous times. He has won numerous awards, including the OPC’s Olivier Rebbot Award for best photographic reporting from abroad in 1989 for the Newsweek story “Causaceu, the fall of a dictator.” Visit www페터턴리움.com.

‘Berlin Wall’ Continued From Page 1

tional news department as international editor for international news. Prior to that, he spent 20 years as a reporter, editor and correspondent for both AP and the Los Angeles Times. He has worked in more than 70 countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and Asia, including postings to Warsaw, Johannesburg, Cairo, Moscow, Baghdad and London.

Jonathan Kapstein was assigned to cover the fall of the Berlin Wall while Brussels regional bureau chief for Business Week magazine. In a 2016 news interview with him available on YouTube, Kapstein highlighted the long-term impact of that epochal event. During his 22 years overseas for Business Week, he always had been bureau chief in South America, Canada, Italy, and Africa. Kapstein earned the OPC award for best reporting from Latin America for a cover story on Brazil and shared other OPC citations ranging from coverage of the bloody and now largely forgotten Iran-Iraq Gulf War to the still relevant issue of how the European Union is transforming the continent. He was president of the Press Club Brussels Europe prior to moving home to the US three years ago after 48 years overseas.

Andrew Nagorski was born in Scotland to Polish parents, moved to the United States as an infant and has rarely stopped moving since. He is an award-winning journalist and author who has spent more than three decades as a foreign correspondent and editor for Newsweek. He served as the magazine’s bureau chief in Hong Kong, Rome, Bonn, Berlin, Warsaw, and two tours of duty in Moscow, first in the early 1980s and then from 1995 to 1996. In 1982, the Soviet government, angry about his enterprising reporting, expelled him from the country. His most recent book is 1941: The Year Germany Lost the War.

The Moderator will be OPC past president Deidre Depke, the executive producer of The Takeaway, a morning radio news program co-created and co-produced by Public Radio International and WNYC. She joined the show after serving as managing editor of Marketplace, the business and finance public radio program. She has been a reporter and editor in New York for 25 years, working as senior news editor at Business Week and as a correspondent for NBC News. She left NBC to become a reporter and an assistant managing editor for Newsweek magazine and as the editor of Newsweek.com and The Daily Beast.

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Richard Callimachi Continued From Page 3

Christopher Dickey Continued From Page 3

able partner on the ground, meant ‘that the basic prerequisites for mitigating any ISIS revival in Syria are gone. Many observers now expect ISIS to re-form itself in some form.’

Dickey wrote a longform piece on Oct. 18 with the descriptive headline: ‘The Kurds Gave Their Lives To Defeat the Islamic State. Trump Just Pissed It All Away.’ In the piece, which chroni- cles many miles of the Kurdish campaign against ISIS since the fall of Mosul in 2014, he calls the recent troop withdrawal ‘the most disastrous foreign-policy debacle of his presidency,’ adding that Trump’s comments about the situation appear to spits on the graves of former Kurdish allies, including dismissive playback preferences. ‘They’ve got a lot of sand over there. So, there’s a lot of sand that they can play with. Let them fight their own wars,’ Trump stated in a press conference.

Dickey recounted the president’s conflicting statements about the Kurds, who at some points blamed ‘those he betrayed as if they were servants who failed him,’ and at other times claiming credit for Kurdish successes, such as a statement to congressional leaders on Oct. 16 in which he declared ‘I captured ISIS.’ ‘Trump didn’t do any capturing in fact,’ Dickey wrote. ‘The Kurds did that.’

Christopher Dickey is the foreign editor of The Daily Beast, based in Paris. Previously he was the Paris bureau chief for The Daily Beast and for Newsweek Magazine. He is the author of five nonfiction books, including novels. With the Contra (1986), Summer of Deliverance: A Memoir of Father and Son (1998), and Securing the City (2009) were chosen by The New York Times as notable books of the year when they were published.

Rockland Callimachi Continued From Page 3

The International Crisis Group said in a recent report that Turkish intervention in Syria could spark an ISIS resurgence, and warned that instability in Iraq or ‘spillover-of-U.S.-fashion ten- sions’ could enable its comeback.

On the same Callimachi tweeted that a Turkish airstrike hit a convoy of civilians, including journalists, in northeastern Syria. Several were killed, but their identities had not been confirmed. She included an image of a message from journalists working with France 2 telling colleagues they were safe.

Callimachi later appeared on Dutch television news show Nieuwstaar to talk about the US withdrawal, which she said a colleague compared to the fall of Saigon in 1975. “There is no doubt that what has happened this week is an unmitigated disaster for the US,” she said.

Callimachi joined The New York Times in 2014 as a foreign correspondent, covering Al Qaeda and ISIS. She has garnered three OPC awards including this year a Lowell Thomas Award for the podcast she hosts called “Caliphate,” which also won a Peabody award in the radio/podcast category in April. She won two 2013 OPC awards for her series of stories based on a cache of internet Al Qaeda documents that she discovered in Malawi, and is also a four-time Pulitzer Prize finalist.
Fordham to Host Two Journalism Events

EVENT PREVIEW: NOV. 2

The New York State Associated Press Association, Fordham University’s Communication and Media Studies Department, and WFUV Public Radio are hosting a full-day conference for journalism students, working reporters, and anyone interested in journalism’s vital role in empowering our democracy.


The conference will be from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Fordham Lincoln Center campus, 12th floor lounge. Enter at 60th Street at Columbus Avenue. There is a small fee that covers lunch. RSVP via bit.ly/Fordham.

OPC member Beth Krauss is part of the team that is organizing the event. She worked for two decades before joining the Fordham Faculty in 2007. She worked in Moscow for 14 years, and was the Moscow bureau Chief for CBS News from 1999 to 2006.

EVENT PREVIEW: NOV. 16

Fordham University will award the annual Spiker Book Prize on Nov. 16. The award is given for the best biography, autobiography or memoir in journalism, and will this year will honor renowned investigative reporter Seymour Hersh.

Hersh, long-time reporter for the New Yorker and New York Times, has won nearly every prize in journalism, including the OPC’s 2004 Joe and Laurie Dine Award, one Pulitzer, two National Magazine Awards, and five George Polk Awards. From his exposure of the My Lai massacre in Vietnam early in his career to his documentation human rights abuses at Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq later on, Hersh has set the standard for reporting information of public interest. He is receiving the Spiker Award – named in honor of the great Murray biographer A. M. Sperry – for his memoir Reporter.

There will be a reception at 6:00 p.m., followed by an award ceremony and comments by Hersh. The event will be held at Fordham University’s Lincoln Center Campus, 60th Street and Columbus Avenue, Lowenstein Hall, on the 12th floor lounge.
PRESS FREEDOM UPDATE…

by Emily Brown

The International Women’s Media Foundation honored winners of its group’s Courage in Journalism Awards on Oct. 22 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C. Winners included Lucrecia McElroy of Nicaragua, who was was arrested in December 2018 for “inciting hate and violence” after her news outlet reported on abuses by government forces. She was released in June 2019, but suffers from medical issues resulting from the detainment.

Anna Nimr of South Sudan, the only female news editor in South Sudan, who has endured attacks, imprisonment, and torture for her reporting.

Nastya Stanko of Ukraine, who report on corruption, despite threats since the Maidan Revolution began; and British journalist Liz Sly, whose 27-year career includes reporting on coverage of war in Syria, a country where nearly 130 journalists have been killed.

The Courage in Journalism Awards honor women journalists who overcome obstacles to report on taboo topics, work in environments hostile to women and share difficult truths.

The Newseum, a museum dedicated to journalism and freedom of the press, announced that it will be closing on Dec. 31, citing financial difficulties. The facility opened in its current location in 2008, and featured a permanent 9/11 gallery, a Berlin Wall gallery, and a memorial to journalists who have died on the job, as well as a multitude of temporary exhibits. Its 40,000-square-foot building has been sold to Johns Hopkins University, who will use it for its graduate-level programs. When the museum closes, its archives will be moved to a “state-of-the-art support center.”

Algerian police have arrested five journalists covering anti-government protests since last September. The 35th anniversary of the 1980s Berber nationalist movement has coincided with growing demands from lenders and debtors to remedy decades of economic hardship and political corruption. The police have arrested the journalists while covering protests.

The decision to pull out of Syria and allow ISIS to regroup. “What messages are we sending the world?” the authors wrote. “Our U.S. troop withdrawal blocked the deal, and suggests it is okay to abandon our allies, to no longer care about the suffering of innocents, and to kidnap and kill Americans abroad without any accountability.”

On Oct. 8, the retrial in an Istanbul court began for journalists, writers and media workers Ahmet Altan, Mehmet Altan, Nazlı Ilicak, Yakup Şimşek, Feyzî Yazıcı and Şükri Yücel Özlüzen on terrorism charges. The country’s Supreme Court of Appeals ordered retrial in July. At the time, the court ordered the continued detention of all defendants, except for Mehmet Altan, who had been previously released after the Constitutional Court found the detention violated. More than 20 press freedom organizations signed a letter calling for all defendants to be released, for the trial to be halted and all charges dropped due to a lack of credible evidence.

The Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership ran a full-page ad highlighting the 10 most urgent cases of journalists under threat on Oct. 17, as part of the One Free Press Coalition. The group listed Alia Alawi, a blogger in the United Arab Emirates, for harassment and the threat of violence; Saša Pavle, a journalist in Montenegro, for the threat of violence; and Varvara Solovyova, a Russian journalist in the Crimea, for harassment and the threat of violence.

The committee once again recognized the work of Facebook founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, who has faced scrutiny for allowing the spread of misinformation and hate speech, especially within the political sphere.

The long journey towards greater progress requires confronting ideas that challenge us,” Zuckerberg said. “I’m here today because I believe we must continue to stand for free expression.

Fifteen civil liberties, including two journalists, have died after a Turkish air strike hit a civilian convoy in northern Syria on Oct. 13. The convoy was being escorted by the Syrian Democratic Forces, a security force loyal to the United States. The two journalists, Mohammad Hussein Rasho and Salem Amnet, were both Syrian Kurds. Rasho was a reporter and cameraman for Ciro TV and Ahmed was a reporter for Hawa News. "Journalists have come under attack by the Assad regime and its allies, the Islamic State group, and now Turkish forces. We call on Turkish authorities to immediately cease their reckless attacks on journalists and other civilians,” said Ignacio Miguel Delgado, the Middle East and North Africa Representative for the CPJ. Oct. 17 marked the two-year anniversary of the murder of Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, who reported on corruption in the Maltese government, was assassinated in a car bomb attack in the Maltese capital in 2017. Two journalists, Mohammad al-Hamid and Hassan al-Hashimi, were charged with murder in connection to the attack. The verdict was never handed down because the suspects were freed. In 2019, Maltese court acquitted the defendants on charges of aiding and abetting murder.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thirty Years After the Fall of the Berlin Wall
Club 600 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30

Meet the OPC Members: Q&A With Benedetta Argentieri

Benedetta Argentieri is an independent journalist and director based in New York. She has covered Iraq and Syria for Italian and American publications, and directs full-length documentaries. She began her career as a local reporter in Italy, working at Mediaset and then as staff writer at Corriere della Sera. She started as a metro reporter focusing on education and right wing extremism, foreign politics, anti-austerity protests in Europe, and reported from Iran and Cuba. In 2013 she co-directed Capulcu Voices From Gezi, a documentary on the Istanbul revolt. Later that year she began studying journalism and politics at Columbia University as a Sampaoilo fellow.

What first drew you to covering Iraq and Syria? While studying at Columbia University I focused on National Security in the Middle East. A few months after I graduated the so-called Islamic State attacked Sinjar, Iraq. More than 7,000 women were kidnapped and used as sex slaves. I was one of the first journalists to cover the story because I knew Yazidi people in the U.S. A month later, I started reporting from Syria.

Major challenge as a journalist: As a freelance, it is a great challenge getting the right amount. Publications try to pay you less and less for an article, and sometimes we risk our lives to cover a story.

Best journalism advice received: “Just keep looking for the story. Don’t give up, you will find it.”

 Worst experience as a journalist: When I covered a group of protesters in Northern Italy who clashed with the police in the woods.

A most common mistake you’ve seen: Don’t hang out just with colleagues, understand the culture, and most importantly be curious about everything.

Hardest story: Reporting on mass graves in Sinjar, Iraq.

Journalism heroes: Rukmini Callimachi, David Foster Wallace, Marie Colvin, Tiziano Terzani.

Advice for journalists who want to work overseas: Study the place, understand the culture, and most importantly be curious about everything.

Twitter handle: @benargentieri

Patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Want to add to the OPC’s collection of Q&As with members? Please contact patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Photo taken during the Raqqa operation in Syria, while Argentieri was filming the documentary “I am the Revolution.”

MEMOIR

JOURNALISM has transformed considerably since Peter Copeland started his career in 1980. After just four days of training, but the lessons and values remain the same. In his new memoir, Finding the News: Adventures of a Young Reporter, Copeland takes readers through the growth of his career, starting from working as a night police reporter to becoming the bureau chief of the E.W. Scripps Company.

When he embarked on his first assignment, a building fire for the City News Bureau of Chicago, Copeland was twenty-two years old and, by his own admission, clueless. But he quickly learned two important tenets: get the facts, and get them right. The narrative follows him from Chicago to Texas, where he covered the U.S.-Mexico border for the El Paso Herald-Post.

He honed his craft across the world, working as a correspondent in Latin America, the Middle East, and Africa. In each new place he reported from, he had to learn the ins and outs of the country while still reporting the facts. Sometimes, though, the facts didn’t tell the whole story. “There were many more things we used to look at or look for,” Copeland wrote. “And being accurate or even ‘balanced’ wasn’t the same as being honest and true.” His struggles with journalistic ethical dilemmas are important and helpful for young journalists to read about.

Copeland spends some time comparing journalism of the past to the new era of journalism brought about by the Internet; but he never condescends to young reporters. “The talent and courage necessary to uncover investigative stories are not different because of the Internet,” he wrote. People have to adapt to the new landscape, but good journalism still requires the grit and scrappiness it has always had.

Peter Copeland is a journalist and coauthor of four books, including Living With Our Genes and The Science of Desire.

BOOKS by Emily Brown

BERLIN

A MID THE chaos and division of the Cold War, United States and British intelligence operatives concocted an ambitious idea. Codenamed “Operation Gold,” the CIA and the British Secret Intelligence Force planned to build a secret tunnel into East Berlin to intercept Soviet military telecommunications.

In Betrayal In Berlin: The True Story of the Cold War’s Most Audacious Espionage Operation, journalist Steve Vogel uncovers the details of this daring mission. The tunnel, which spanned almost 1,500 feet and cost millions of dollars, proved to be a difficult engineering challenge. When recounting the intricacies of the plan, Vogel spares no details. The book contains dozens of photos, maps, and interviews with people involved, including a rare interview with George Blake, a infamous Soviet double-agent and the main character of this story. Because of Blake, the KGB knew about the tunnel almost immediately, but to protect him, they allowed the Allies to continue with construction unbeknown. This resulted in a massive trove of discoveries for U.S. and British intelligence, despite total enemy knowledge of the tunnel.

Betrayal in Berlin, with all its drama and excitement, often reads like a spy novel. Among other antics, Blake broke out of British prison and fled to the Soviet Union. In 2013 she co-directed Capulcu Voices From Gezi, a documentary on the Istanbul revolt. Later that year she began studying journalism and politics at Columbia University as a Sampaoilo fellow.

Hometown: Milan, Italy.

Education: University of Manchester (BA), Columbia University (MA, journalism).

Languages: English, Italian, Spanish.

First job in journalism: I started as a freelance writer for a travel magazine that didn’t have the budget to send me around.

Countries reported from: All over Europe, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Cuba.

When and why did you join the OPC: I joined OPC in 2015. I thought it was important to be part of a network of established journalists and freelancers.

What first drew you to covering Iraq and Syria? While studying at Columbia University I focused on National Security in the Middle East. A few months after I graduated the so-called Islamic State attacked Sinjar, Iraq. More than 7,000 women were kidnapped and used as sex slaves. I was one of the first journalists to cover the story because I knew Yazidi people in the U.S. A month later, I started reporting from Syria.

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Twitter handle: @benargentieri

Patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Want to add to the OPC’s collection of Q&As with members? Please contact patricia@opcofamerica.org.

Photo taken during the Raqqa operation in Syria, while Argentieri was filming the documentary “I am the Revolution.”
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October 2019