



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: July 31, 2020

Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this week's digital newsletter, which includes:

- A reminder for eligible members to vote in this year's Board of Governors election.
- The OPC's call for applicants in a second round of COVID-19 freelance journalism microgrants.
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists covering COVID-19 and protests in the U.S.
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#).

Scroll down for more content, summaries and links to items online.



OPC Board of Governors Election Underway

Thank you to those who have already voted in this year's OPC Board of Governors election. This year the club is electing six (6) officers, ten (10) governors who are Active members and three (3) who are Associate members. Please use the ballot link we sent in last week's Bulletin email, or be on the lookout for more email reminders in the days to come.

The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 7 at noon, and the results will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 8. There will be no paper ballots this year.

OPC Launches Second Round of COVID-19 Freelance Journalism Microgrants

The OPC is pleased to announce that it is offering a second round of microgrants to help our freelance members suffering from the COVID-19 crisis, regardless of medium or coverage area. In May we provided \$750 grants to 27 journalists. In this second round, we are offering 20 new grants of \$750 each.



The term "microgrant" has been used a lot recently. We are describing it as one-time assistance to pursue your freelance journalism. Preference will be given to applicants who did not receive assistance from the OPC in May, but journalists who did receive grants may apply again. At this time, this program is only available to OPC member freelancers. We define freelancers as those who derive the majority of their income from freelance work.

The deadline for applications is **Wednesday, August 12, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**. We anticipate awarding 20 microgrants and letting grantees know by Sunday, August 19, by email.

Click on the button below to fill out an application.

[Apply Now](#)

Photo above right: A photographer covers the launch of a coronavirus testing facility for medical and emergency workers in Munich, Germany. Photo: Alexander Hassenstein/Getty Images

New Resources for Covering COVID-19 and Protests

TRAINING AND GUIDELINES

Applications are open until Friday, July 31 to attend a four-week online course on Reporting on Refugee Communities Amidst a Pandemic in the Middle East and North Africa. The training program is sponsored by the **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** and the **Facebook Journalism Project**. The online course will take place in the month of September 2020. [Read more and apply here](#).

On Friday, July 31 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Club Journalism Institute** and the **News Leaders Association** are hosting a program to discuss practical suggestions for “Covering Justice: Reimagining the Cops, Crime, Courts Beats” with Libor Jany of the Minneapolis Star Tribune and Jamiles Lartey of the Marshall Project, with Michael Days of the Philadelphia Inquirer, moderating. [Read more and register here](#) .

On Aug. 5 from 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Club Journalism Institute** is hosting a session on how to handle FOIA requests during the pandemic. Panelists will be Miranda Spivack, journalism fellow at the Brechner Center for Freedom of Information at the University of Florida, and Mark Walker, FOIA coordinator in The New York Times’ Washington bureau. [Read more and register here](#) .

The **International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF)** has released a digital course on online harassment with digital security experts, journalists, and online education experts, titled “Know Your Trolls.” The course “helps journalists identify the abuse they are receiving online and who may be behind it, as well as offer some key strategies that may help journalists to be better prepared.” The program is part of IWMF’s efforts to build a coalition of groups to bolster women journalists’ digital security and help the news media better support their employees’ online safety. [Read more and register here](#) .

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The **IWMF** , in partnership with **Craig Newmark Philanthropies** , offers financial support for short- and long-term professional needs via the United States Journalism Emergency Fund. To qualify, applicants must be a U.S.-based journalist “of any gender (including men) targeted as a result of your reporting at events related to the highly charged political unrest and polarization in the U.S., including elections, civil movements and other challenging environments.” [Read more and apply here](#).

More Resources

- The **OPC** has invited freelance members to send a short pitch document, detailing their locations, specialty areas, and contact information. They have been collected in a Dropbox folder. We hope that editors will find this a useful tool when they need to find a journalist quickly in an overseas or U.S. locale. If you would like to gain access to this folder, please email patricia@opcofamerica.org. Read more about this networking tool on the [OPC website here](#).
- The **Columbia University’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has compiled a large repository of documents on COVID-19 via FOIA requests. [Explore the database here](#).
- **ACOS** [assembled](#) a substantial list of COVID-19 resources for journalists, including links to practical safety advice, funding opportunities, hardship and emergency funds, and reporting resources such as guides for fact checking.
- **ICFJ** [launched](#) a page for COVID-19 resources for journalists.
- **Rory Peck Trust** has a [resource page](#) for pandemic coverage. It includes

safety guidelines, funding sources, job opportunities and online training

The OPC has added these links to a special COVID-19 section on the member-only [Resources](#) page available to members who have logged in. Watch that page as we share more. Click the button below to go directly, or find it in your Member Dashboard under "Resources."

If you have any issues accessing the resources page, please contact Chad Bouchard at chad@opcofamerica.org for credentials.

[OPC Resources Page](#)

Welcome New Members

Singeli Agnew

Freelance
Supervising Producer/
Director/Cinematographer
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident

Fatima Bhojani

Freelance
Writer/Reporter
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident
(Young, 30-34)

John Giannini

Freelance
Video Journalist/Documentary
Cinematographer
Ventura, CA
Active Non-Resident

Barbie Latza Nadeau

Correspondent at Large
The Daily Beast
Rome
Active Overseas

Brooke Workneh

Tremolo Productions
Producer
Los Angeles
Associate Non-Resident
(Young, 30-34)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Annika Hammerschlag, winner of the 2016 Irene Corbally Kuhn scholarship, had a story in The New York Times [on July 22](#) on how Black Lives Matter protests have inspired a call for black athletes to attend a historically Black college or university. Until COVID-19 sent her back to the U.S., Hammerschlag had been freelancing in Dakar and says she hopes to return as soon as possible.

Thomas Nocera , 2020 Nathan S. Beinstock Memorial Scholarship winner, has started his OPC Foundation fellowship with GroundTruth Project. He and his colleague Grace Eliza Goodwin co-wrote a [July 15](#) story for the organization's Democracy project exploring the rise of young leaders from the ranks of [15-26 million Black Lives Matter demonstrators across the U.S](#) .

Kantaro Komiya , 2020 OPC Foundation Stan Swinton Fellowship winner, filed his first enterprise story [on July 30](#) as part of his Dow Jones internship this summer. The story covers tech companies gaining from the global shift to online education. And [on July 29](#), he filed his first earnings story, which tracks PayPal's reporting of its strongest quarterly performance ever due to increased dependence on contactless payments amid the pandemic.

AWARDS

OPC member **Ruchi Kumar** has won a 2020 Khaled Alkhateb award for a piece she co-wrote for Foreign Policy [in January](#) , along with colleague Hikmat Noori, about Iran's mass deportation of refugees from Afghanistan. The article cites data from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) saying that as of the first week of last December, more than 450,000 Afghans returned from Iran in 2019 alone, and more than 250,000 were forced deportees.

All three finalists for the [Deadline Club Award](#) in the Feature Photo category this year are past OPC Award winners. **Rodrigo Abd** of The Associated Press was named a finalist for his series of photos depicting the crisis in Venezuela. Abd won the OPC's Feature Photography Award in 2010 for photos of Guatemala and in 2014 for photos of Peru. **James Nachtwey** is a finalist for his photos of Rohingya in TIME magazine. He has won five photo awards from the OPC over the years, including Robert Capa Awards for 1983, 1994 and 1998, and an Olivier Rebbot Award as well as a special photo award in 2001. In 2008, he received an OPC President's Award for his work. Also a Deadline Club Award finalist is **Moises Saman** of TIME for his coverage of Kurds in Syria after U.S. troops pulled out. Saman won the OPC's Olivier Rebbot Award this year for images of El Salvador for National Geographic. Saman is also a finalist in the Digital Video Reporting category. Deadline Club Award winners are slated to be announced during an online ceremony on Sept. 14.

Emily Kassie , who shared the OPC's 2016 Best Digital Reporting on International Affairs with Malia Politzer, is a Deadline Club Award finalist in the Digital Innovation category for work with The Marshall Project and The Guardian on the [U.S. immigrant detention system](#) . Kassie's [2016 OPC award](#) was for coverage of those who profited from the global refugee crisis.

Erika Fry , who received a Citation for Excellence in the OPC's Malcolm Forbes Award this year, is a finalist for the Deadline Club Award in the Business Feature category for her article in FORTUNE, "[Epidemic of Fear](#) ." She received the OPC citation for the same article, which told the story of French pharma giant Sanofi's disastrous rollout of a dengue fever vaccine in the Philippines. That story also won a SABEW Best in Business Award in the Explanatory Journalism category in March this year. Fry is also a finalist in the Deadline Club's category for Science,

Technology, Medical or Environmental Reporting for “ [Death by a Thousand Clicks](#) ,” which covers deadly problems with electronic health records in the U.S.

Andy Greenberg of WIRED magazine, who received this year’s Citation for Excellence in the OPC’s Cornelius Ryan Award, is a finalist for a Deadline Club Award in Magazine Feature Reporting for his article, “The Untold Story of the 2018 Olympics Cyberattack, the Most Deceptive Hack in History.” Greenberg got the OPC citation for his book, [Sandworm: A New Era of Cyberwar and the Hunt for the Kremlin’s Most Dangerous Hackers](#) , published by Penguin Random House/Doubleday.

UPDATES

OPC Governor **Ishaan Tharoor** , Washington Post columnist covering foreign affairs, geopolitics and history, has been filing regularly in “Today’s Worldview” on topics including [rising U.S. confrontation with China](#) on July 24, [parallels between protests in the U.S. and Hong Kong](#) on July 27, [the decline of U.S. global credibility](#) on July 28, and the [international space race to explore Mars](#) on July 29.

OPC member **Dexter Roberts** was featured recently on two podcasts to discuss his book, *The Myth of Chinese Capitalism* . On July 30, the Lowy Institute released an episode of [COVIDcast](#) featuring Roberts, and on July 22 he participated in a livestreamed show on YouTube called “ [Global Hint with Abhivardhan](#) ,” produced by Indian media company Internationalism.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Peter McGrath , retired Newsweek editor whose team won the OPC’s 1990 Ed Cunningham Award for coverage of the first Persian Gulf War, [died on July 15](#) in Annapolis at the age of 76. McGrath first joined Newsweek as a foreign editor, supervising coverage of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the Gulf War. He eventually became the magazine’s first editor of digital journalism, and developed its earliest online content. McGrath founded the Washington Journalism Review, which was renamed the American Journalism Review. He taught journalism at George Washington University and Rutgers University after retiring from Newsweek.

Press Freedom Update

[The U.S. Press Freedom Tracker](#) reported on July 29 that the number of acts of aggression against journalists covering Black Lives Matter protests over the past two months has surpassed 600. Those incidents included 85 arrests, 136 physical attacks including 88 by law enforcement, 142 rubber bullets or projectiles, 82 uses of tear gas and 38 uses of pepper spray.

The apparent abduction of prominent journalist **Matiullah Jan** in broad daylight in Islamabad [last Monday](#) has highlighted increasing threats to press freedom and sparked calls from advocates for better protection in Pakistan. The Committee to

Protect Journalists and other organizations have called for an investigation, and the country's Supreme Court has ordered police to file a report on the incident within two weeks.

Turkey has [drafted a bill](#) to crack down on social media platforms and control user data. Press freedom groups say the bill would require social media companies with more than one million users in Turkey to store users' data locally, a move which could put more journalists at risk in a country where reporters are routinely jailed for content posted online.

