



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Aug. 27, 2020

Greetings!

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

- A reminder of the upcoming online Annual Meeting on Sept. 8 and our discussion with OPC [Edward R. Murrow Award winners on Sept. 17](#).
- [Resources](#) and webinars for journalists.
- COVID-19 Coverage by OPC members
- [People Column](#).
- [Press Freedom Update](#), this week with a focus on China.

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



Upcoming OPC Events

Sept. 8: OPC Annual Meeting

Time: Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time

Place: Online via Zoom

The OPC Annual Meeting, open to all members in good standing, will be held online on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time via Zoom. Results of this year's Board of Governors election will be announced at the meeting. The deadline for voting is Monday, Sept. 7 at noon Eastern Time. The OPC is using the online voting website Balloteer again this year to host its secure election. The system allows one voting ballot and delineates between Active and Associate members. There will be no paper ballots this year.

This year, the OPC will elect officers, ten (10) Active board members and three (3) Associate board members to begin two-year terms.

To cast your vote, please keep an eye out for a ballot reminder on Monday with links to Balloteer, which lists all of the candidates.

For eligible Active and Associate voters, your Voter ID is the email address we have on file, .

Please call Chad Bouchard at 480 745-9250 if you have any problems voting online.

Thank you again to those who have already voted.

[Please RSVP to Attend the Annual Meeting](#)



Sept. 17: OPC Award Winners Share Their Stories The Edward R. Murrow Award

Time: Sept. 17 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) Eastern Time

Place: Online video conferencing (platform TBD)

Join the OPC for an online discussion with winners of this year's Edward R. Murrow Award for best TV, video or documentary interpretation of international affairs with a run time up to 30 minutes.



RSVPs are required. Links to the video conference call will be emailed to

registrants before the program begins.

Winners participating in the call include: **Singeli Agnew**, **Rukmini Callimachi**, **Geoff O'Brien** and **Victor Tadashi Suarez** of The New York Times for "Collision," a video series episode covering the murders of two cyclists who were touring the world when ISIS ran them down and stabbed them to death. **Vivienne Walt**, Paris-based reporter for TIME magazine and head judge for this year's Edward R. Murrow Award, will moderate.

Judges for the Edward R. Murrow Award said:

"This episode of The New York Times' The Weekly series tells a tale of poignant tragedy, through meticulous reporting and strong visual imagery. The narrative arc takes viewers from the open joyfulness of two young Americans, into the heart of a cold-blooded ISIS outpost in the wilds of Tajikistan. From the victims' excited dispatches home, to the chilling cell phone videos from the killer, the film leaves the audience moved and disturbed, with a lot to contemplate once it ends."

Watch the winning piece here:

[Collision >>](#)

RSVP Now

Photos above, clockwise from upper left: Singeli Agnew, Rukmini Callimachi, Victor Tadashi Suarez and Geoff O'Brien.

New Resources

TRAINING AND GUIDELINES

The **Coalition for Women in Journalism (CFWIJ)** has received a \$150,000 grant from Craig Newmark Philanthropies (CNP). [In a release](#), the CFWIJ thanked CNP and said the donation would "help us continue our work to aid and support women journalists around the world." The CFWIJ offers several useful resources on topics from journalist safety to press freedom, including a page [devoted to COVID-19 coverage](#) with tipsheets and a map to highlight women reporting on the pandemic.

On Sept. 16 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Eastern Time, the **National Press Club Journalism Institute** will host an online panel covering threats that journalists face in the field, including arrests, verbal and online attacks, and the risks of an ongoing health crisis. Panelists for the program, titled "Journalists in Peril: Creating a Safer, Equitable Future Together," will include Alex Marquardt of CNN, Sarah Matthews of Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, Abby Phillip of CNN, and Michael Santiago of Getty Images. The moderator will be Jill Geisler, the Bill Plante Chair in Leadership and Media Integrity at Loyola University Chicago and the Freedom Forum Fellow in Women's Leadership. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Sept 22 and 23, the **Institute for Nonprofit News** will host a two-day online conference titled “Racial Equity in Journalism: How is Nonprofit News Meeting the Moment?” Sessions will run each day from 1:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. Eastern Time via Zoom. This is a ticketed event, \$29 for members and \$69 for non-members. [View the schedule and register here.](#) This is the second part of a two-part conference, in which Part I focused on sustainability in journalism. Many of the past sessions are available to [watch online here.](#)

The International Journalists' Network (IJNet) has posted a helpful article covering “[Nine Remote Interviewing Tips for Journalists,](#)” including tech tips during recording, advice from veteran journalists, securing permission to record, and post-production tools.

The **University of Oxford** is seeking input for a survey after launching a new project, titled **Journo Stress**, focused on mental health in the journalism sector and creating resources to teach techniques that are proven to reduce symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. [Read more and take the survey here.](#)

The Doc Society has launched a second and revised edition of its [Independent Documentary Filming In The Time of Corona](#) guidelines and protocol. The resource covers a 3-part protocol to help guide documentary filmmakers’ process of weighing public interest of their work with attendant health risks.

IJNet has dropped a [podcast series](#) on mental health and journalism. A recent episode features an interview with Dean Yates, a longtime journalist whose struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder led him to become an advocate for journalists’ mental health.

IJNet also posted a new [tipsheet for photojournalists](#) covering best practices for work in the field during the pandemic. Journalist and journalism safety coach Sami Abu Salem covers how to reduce exposure time, sterilizing equipment, staying current with research on the spread of COVID-19, and communicating with health officials and support organizations.

A podcast titled **Freelancing for Journalists**, hosted by veteran freelancers Lily Canter and Emma Wilkinson, recently covered tips for tackling the challenges of [working as a freelance journalist while living with a disability](#), with guests freelance writer Lydia Wilkins, who is on the autistic spectrum, and sports broadcaster Gemma Stevenson, who was diagnosed with dystonia following a car accident. The podcast launched in March this year and is now in its 13th episode, having previously covered topics such as fighting for fair pay, international work, mental health, coping with COVID-19, juggling new homeschool duties with work, and how to pitch stories.

More Resources

- **First Draft** has been hosting a series of presentations on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can [browse the archives here.](#)
- **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](#)

OPC Members Reporting on COVID-19

OPC Governor **Farnaz Fassihi**, who has been reporting on the outbreak of COVID-19 in Iran for The New York Times, was interviewed [on Aug. 20](#) in a Times roundup of pandemic news about Iran's second wave of infections as the country marked 20,000 deaths since the start of the pandemic. Fassihi said Iran's surge in new cases is due to the country reopening too soon. "When the virus first arrived in the country, they closed down for just two weeks during the New Year holiday in mid-March. They didn't meet any of the benchmarks when they reopened. There's no contact tracing. There's no quarantine," she said. Separately, Fassihi also wrote a piece [on Aug. 22](#) about Facebook engineer Behdad Esfahbod, who said he was arrested by Revolutionary Guard intelligence agents on the streets of Tehran, held in solitary confinement for seven days and psychologically tortured.

OPC member and freelancer **Stéphanie Fillion** wrote a piece for IJNet [on Aug. 18](#) covering the impact of the pandemic on Haiti's deaf community. Fillion interviewed Hatian journalist Milo Milfort, who wrote about the effect of masks on the country's deaf population, and discussed challenges in accessing information and sources that were exacerbated by the pandemic.

Please send us your personal anecdotes, photos, and links to published pieces related to COVID-19 to info@opcofamerica.org, and we will publish them on our website and share with members. You can also share those stories directly with members on our [OPC Connect](#) group on Facebook, or tweet us [@opcofamerica](#).

Welcome New Member

Ryan Delaney

Education Reporter
St. Louis Public Radio
Active Non-Resident, Young (30-34)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Neha Thirani Bagri, winner of the 2016 Jerry Flint Scholarship for International Business Reporting, landed a [cover story in TIME magazine](#) for the third week of August. She and a colleague wrote about how the deepening coronavirus crisis is reshaping India. A freelancer based in Mumbai, she had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The GroundTruth Project.

For the New Humanitarian, **William Martin III**, 2020 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner, [contributed a report and film](#) about the struggles of transgender migrants forced to wait in Mexico's dangerous border cities, facing increased waiting time and risks due to the pandemic. Martin focuses on immigration policies and climate change. He recently received a fellowship with The GroundTruth Project to report on migration.

Kimon de Greef, 2020 David R. Schweisberg Scholarship winner, wrote a 5,000-word article [on Aug. 24](#) for VICE magazine about the black market for white sage (*Salvia apiana*), an indigenous herb used traditionally by several Native American tribes.

Krithika Varagur, 2019 Sally Jacobsen Fellowship winner, wrote a piece for The Intercept [on Aug. 25](#) about a paramedic in Minnesota who filed a whistleblower lawsuit alleging that police pressured him to use ketamine, a sedative, during an arrest. Varagur talked to the whistleblower, Joseph Baker, who said that the incident is part of a larger trend among law enforcement in using ketamine to "gain compliance" during arrests. The lawsuit also alleges falsification of EMS training credentials. Varagur has also been covering COVID-19 updates for the MIT Technology Review, recently [filing six pieces](#) in a series on coronavirus responses around the world, including Mongolia, Germany, Liberia, Sweden, Uruguay and Vietnam.

UPDATES

OPC Governor **Jim Laurie** has [published a memoir](#) exploring his earliest adventures and in Cambodia and Vietnam, titled *The Last Helicopter, Two Lives in Indochina*, now available in paperback and due for release on Kindle and I-book on Sept. 1, with an audio book version slated for Sept. 15. The book is "drawn from recorded interviews with Soc Sinan and from the contemporaneous writings of Jim Laurie," and "captures the drama and tensions of the early 1970s, while also recalling places of grace and beauty now gone forever." It is currently

available on Amazon in the U.S., U.K., Australia and France, and other places later. Laurie is an award-winning international broadcaster, writer and media consultant, a recipient of the OPC's 1983 Ben Grauer Award for best radio spot news from abroad, as well as Emmy and Peabody Awards. He served as radio and television correspondent first for NBC News from 1972 to 1978, and then ABC News from 1978 to 2000.

OPC member **Ceylan Yeginsu**, who joined The New York Times Turkey bureau in 2013 and has been working from the London bureau in recent years, will join the Travel desk as a reporter on Sept. 1. An announcement about the new posting [on Aug. 19](#) said that the pandemic had pushed the paper's travel coverage to become "newsier, more urgent and more focused on answering the questions readers have about how to travel safely." Ceylan is a graduate of the University of Leeds and earned a master's degree in digital media at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University.

2017 David A.andelman and Pamela Title Award winner **Aurora Almendral** continues to contribute stories for NPR from Southeast Asia, writing the text of a piece [on Aug. 21](#) featuring photos of teen moms in the Philippines from photojournalist Hannah Reyes Morales. The story includes reporting on an anticipated baby boom in 2021 due to hundreds of thousands of unplanned pregnancies from conditions during the pandemic.

Fresh allegations against a photographer at the Magnum Photos agency have invoked [a 2018 article](#) in the Columbia Journalism Review by OPC member **Kristen Chick**, who interviewed 50 women in the photography industry and outlined accusations against agencies, publications and institutions for turning a blind eye to abusive behaviour. A recent article referencing Chick's work covered the Magnum agency's suspension of David Alan Harvey over [allegations](#) that he harassed a colleague. Separately, Magnum also recently faced allegations that it had hosted historical images that may represent child sexual exploitation in its archive, which was taken offline in response.

OPC member **Nicole Tung** had work displayed at a photojournalism exhibition in the French-Catalan town of Perpignan through late August. For 16 days, [Visa Pour l'Image](#) included Tung's portrayal of young protestors "continuing to live in hope despite the increasingly bleak prospects for the political future of Hong Kong." She also had work published for a story this month on the website [Rest of the World](#), which covers technology. Her photos accompanied an article about competition in the motorcycle delivery business in Istanbul by Kaya Genc. OPC Robert Capa Award-winning photographer **Dieu Nalio Chery**'s photos have been [widely published](#) in stories covering the aftermath of Hurricane Laura in Haiti for The Associated Press. Chery's images capture massive flooding in Port-au-Prince as residence sought safety and recovered damaged belongings in the storm's wake.

The Daily Beast [on Aug. 21](#) posthumously published a piece by OPC Governor **Christopher Dickey**, who died in Paris on July 16 at the age of 68, in an article described as an "ode" to the organization's international coverage and to Dickey's extensive network of correspondents around the world. After rounding up stories and reporting challenges that spanned several continents, Dickey wrote that "it's a

24/7 world of trouble, but it can't be ignored, and it better be understood." The piece was written as part of The Daily Beast's membership drive in a series about the backstory behind the organization's coverage.

OPC member **Cam Simpson** co-wrote a piece for Bloomberg, sharing the byline with colleagues Michael Smith and Nach Cattan, [on Aug. 26](#) about a chemical manufactured in Mexico by a publicly traded American company that cartels use to cook methamphetamine. The piece outlines the production and sale of acetic anhydride by U.S. company Avantor Inc., despite the chemical being one of the world's most strictly controlled "precursor and essential chemicals" for the production of illegal narcotics.

OPC member **Ilana Ozernoy** was featured along with her wife Nina Mouritzen in a News York Times "Vows" feature written by Vincent M. Mallozzi [on Aug. 21](#). The piece chronicles the relationship between Ozernoy and Mouritzen, both of whom moved to New York as immigrants in 2000, later meeting at a wine bar. "It felt like we just picked up in the middle of a conversation and I did not want to stop talking to this person," Ozernoy was quoted as saying. The two were married on July 4 at the Conservatory Garden in Central Park.

People Column August 2020

Press Freedom Update

by Bill Collins, chair of the OPC Press Freedom Committee

This week's OPC Press Freedom update focuses on China as news media in Hong Kong struggle to practice journalism under Beijing's new national security law.

By the Numbers: China

World Press Freedom Index (Reporters Without Borders)

China ranks **136th** among 180 countries

RSF ranks 180 countries and regions according to the level of freedom available to journalists.

Global Freedom Report (Freedom House)

China scores **10** out of 100; Rating – Not Free

Freedom House annually rates people's access to political rights and civil liberties.

10 Most Censored Countries (The Committee to Protect Journalists)

China ranks **No. 5**

CPJ's annual list is based on censorship tactics used by authoritarian governments – imprisonment, repressive laws, surveillance of journalists and restrictions on internet/social media.

Work Visa Denial Is Latest Beijing Tactic to Undermine Hong Kong Press Freedom

The denial of a work visa for a veteran Irish journalist is the latest example of press freedom's erosion in Hong Kong under China's new national security law. The city's Immigration Department rejected the visa application of Aaron McNicholas, the incoming editor of *Hong Kong Free Press*, following a six-month wait and offering no reason for the decision.

The move occurs several weeks after *New York Times* reporter Chris Buckley was forced to leave Hong Kong after he was denied a visa, though observers believe that decision stemmed from the ongoing U.S.-China trade dispute. The Times moved one-third of its local team to South Korea soon thereafter.

Tom Grundy, the editor-in-chief of HKFP, says the McNicholas visa denial is payback for the new outlet's coverage.

"We are a local news outlet and our prospective editor was a journalist from Ireland, so this is not another tit-for-tat measure under the U.S.-China trade dispute," says Grundy, according to news reports. "It appears we have been targeted under the climate of the new security law and because of our impartial, fact-based coverage."

This is the first time that McNicholas and HKFP have been denied a work visa. Though the outlet will press the government for an official explanation and consider a legal challenge, Grundy says there are negative implications for the business community that could result from this decision.

"Other sectors can expect to be subjected to similar bureaucratic rigamarole in light of the security law," says Grundy. "Companies are already leaving or avoiding the city for this very reason. Businesses can be assured that visa issues are now a feature, not a bug. They may decide that Hong Kong is no longer a suitable place to set up a regional headquarters or base."

Several weeks ago, the Foreign Correspondents Club noted that long delays in processing work visas has had a chilling effect on foreign journalists who want to work in Hong Kong.

"Reports about these changes have emerged with no official confirmation or transparency, which has raised serious concerns among the many international media organizations and journalists that have the right to operate freely in Hong Kong," says Jodi Schneider, president, Foreign Correspondents Club.

Other media groups and press freedom advocates believe the move accelerates the press freedom decline under the new security law.

"The Hong Kong government must revert this decision that clearly goes against

press freedom, a principle enshrined the Basic Law,” says Cedric Alviani, East Asia bureau chief, Reporters Without Borders.

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