



Overseas Press Club
of America

Weekly Bulletin: Aug. 7, 2020

Greetings!

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

- A new online panel on China's global influence coming up [on Aug. 13](#).
- A look at our discussion with OPC [Edward R. Murrow Award winners on Sept. 17](#).
- [Remembrances of Pete Hamill](#), former OPC member and husband of current member Fukiko Hamill.
- A reminder for eligible members to vote in this year's Board of Governors election.
- A reminder about 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.



Aug. 13 Panel: China's Global Push

Is a Backlash Building?

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. Eastern Time
(4:00-5:15 p.m. Ireland time, 8:30-9:45 p.m. India time)

Place: Online via Microsoft Teams

The OPC and Gateway House, Mumbai, India, are co-sponsoring a unique global online conversation among China experts on three continents. As China pushes to expand its power around the world technologically, economically and strategically, signs of concern are mounting. India has taken particularly dramatic action, banning Chinese software applications from its market. What are the tools and tactics that President Xi Jinping's government is using? How can they be countered?

From Mumbai, appearing will be **Manjeet Kripalani**, founder of Gateway House, India's Council on Global Relations. With her will be **Amit Bhandari**, Fellow, Energy and Environment Studies Programme and **Blaise Fernandes**, Director, Gateway House, both authors of an important China report.

From the United States, appearing will be **Dexter Roberts**, author of *The Myth of Chinese Capitalism: The Worker, the Factory and the Future of the World*, a fellow at the Mansfield Center and nonresident senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Asia Security Initiative; and **William J. Holstein**, past OPC president and board member, and author of, *The New Art of War: China's Deep Strategy Inside the United States*.

From Europe, appearing will be **Declan Kelleher**, former Permanent Representative of Ireland to the European Union; and former Ambassador of Ireland to China.

[RSVP Now](#)

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

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.

OPC Board of Governors Election Underway

Thank you again 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. We will continue to send weekly reminders with ballot links to the Balloteer site for eligible voters in the days to come. **Your Voter ID is your email address.**

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.

Deadline Is Aug. 12 to Apply for the OPC's Second Round of COVID-19 Freelance Journalism Microgrants

Applications are still open for the OPC's second round of microgrants to help our freelance members suffering from the COVID-19 crisis. In May we provided \$750 grants to 27 journalists. In this second round, we are offering 20 new grants of \$750 each.

The "microgrant" is a 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, Aug. 12, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**. We anticipate awarding 20 microgrants and letting grantees know by Wednesday, Aug. 26, 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

People Remembered: Pete Hamill

Veteran reporter, editor and columnist **Pete Hamill**, husband of OPC member **Fukiko Hamill**, died on Aug. 5 in Brooklyn at age 85.

Robert D. McFadden wrote a detailed obituary of Hamill and his storied career for The New York Times that [can be read here](#).



OPC member **Charles M. Sennott**, the founder and CEO of The GroundTruth Project, shared a remembrance of his friend and colleague with the OPC.

“Pete Hamill was the voice of New York City, but he was also a citizen of the world and his overseas reporting is perhaps less well known,” he said. “Pete wrote from Vietnam, Nicaragua, Northern Ireland and was the editor of The Mexico City News. He provided memorable live coverage of the fall of the wall in Berlin and, as the Soviet satellites crumbled, he closely chronicled the rising freedom in East Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic. One of the proudest and most rewarding moments as Executive Editor at GlobalPost, the online news organization I co-founded in 2009 which is now folded into Public Radio International, was having Pete write for us. He did a very memorable essay on the 20th anniversary of the fall of the wall which is on the [PRI website here](#). Pete always had the same approach to his writing whether it was in Brooklyn or Berlin, to find the people who were not being heard and give them a voice.”

Former OPC Executive Director Sonya Fry remembered Hamill's time as member in the 2000s, recalling that in addition to his career as journalist, editor and author, Hamill became a Distinguished Writer-in-Residence at NYU's Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute. He edited a Library of America book on the World War II writings of A.J.



Liebling, and the OPC organized a Book Night with members and students at the journalism school on March 31, 2008.

Hamill told students at the event that “I think Liebling’s one of those rare journalists who made journalism his literature.”

Fry recalled Hamill’s inscription to her in the book, “For Sonya, Long Life, Much Laughter,” adding that it “sums up his love of life and writing.”

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Top photo: Pete Hamill, left, poses with Charles M. Sennott at the 2011 OPC Foundation Scholar Awards Luncheon. Photo by Michael Dames. Bottom photo: Hamill, center left, with students at NYU in 2008. Photo courtesy of Sonya Fry.

New Resources for Covering COVID-19 and Protests

TRAINING AND GUIDELINES

The **ACOS Alliance**, in association with the **Dart Centre Asia Pacific**, has produced a trauma safety toolkit designed for newsrooms working with freelancers. It contains practical information, tips and guidance to help editors assess trauma exposure among journalist colleagues and contributors and shows them how to plan the necessary action and support. The resource, *Leading Resilience: A Guide for Editors and News Managers*, includes signs of trauma exposure and risk factors, issues that may exacerbate ongoing trauma, myth busting and self-care for managers, and psychological health and well-being risk assessment. [Download the PDF here.](#)

On Aug. 12 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time, the **University of Southern California Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism** will host a free online seminar to help journalists cover the future of policing in the U.S. amid widespread calls for reform. The webinar, *Covering Unrest: What Comes Next for Policing?*, is supported by The California Endowment. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Aug. 12 at 11:30 a.m. Eastern time, the **National Press Club Journalism Institute and PEN America** will co-host a program on “Equity and community in local news: Lessons learned in 2020” to identify and share takeaways from pandemic and protest coverage and to look ahead toward election coverage. [Read more and register here.](#)

On Aug. 20 at 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time, **First Draft** is hosting an online webinar on “Coronavirus: Tracking the Infodemic Across Social Media,” a program featuring a discussion with researchers and reporters who tracked the so-called infodemic around COVID-19 over the last six months, “including data insights, social media monitoring and lessons around the ethics of reporting on misinformation.” [Register here.](#) First Draft has been hosting a series of presentation on COVID-19 for journalists, and you can [browse the archives 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.](#)

- **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

Miceal O'Hurley-Pitts

Diplomatic Editor
Diplomat Ireland
Dublin
Active Overseas

Annalisa Quinn

Freelance
Washington, DC
Active Non-Resident
(Young, 29 or under)

OPC Members Reporting on COVID-19

OPC member **Anita Snow** has been reporting on COVID-19 from Arizona for The Associated Press, including a piece [on Aug. 1](#) looking at shortcomings of the state's health officials in spreading the word to Phoenix's hardest-hit Latino neighborhoods. Snow reported that about 45,000 coronavirus out of 60,000 test kits went unused during a 12-day testing blitz, highlighting "limitations in promoting the availability of health care resources to communities of color during the pandemic and the hesitancy from those often most at risk from COVID-19 even if they know about those options." In a separate piece, Snow also reported for the AP with co-author Jaques Billeaud [on Aug. 6](#) that according to Arizona corrections officials 517 inmates at the state prison in Tucson tested positive for the coronavirus even as the overall spread in the state was showing signs of slowing.

Katherine Eban, winner of this year's Cornelius Ryan Award, wrote an investigative piece for Vanity Fair on July 30 that explores possible political

motivation to explain why a massive national COVID-19 response plan let by Jared Kushner, which included widespread viral testing that could have brought the pandemic under control, was scuttled in early April despite ballooning infection rates across the country. A source told Eban that a member of Kushner's team had expressed that "because the virus had hit blue states hardest, a national plan was unnecessary and would not make sense politically." The story, titled "[How Jared Kushner's Secret Testing Plan 'Went Poof Into Thin Air,'](#)" has been [quoted](#) extensively in other media. Eban won the Ryan Award for her book *Bottle of Lies: Inside the Generic Drug Boom*, about Indian drug makers who evaded the U.S. FDA and sold billions of dollars in unsafe drugs to the U.S.

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](#).

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

The OPC Foundation is well represented among the recipients of the [The GroundTruth Project's Global Migration, Refugees and Resettlement Reporting Fellowships](#). **Thomas Nocera**, the 2020 Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship winner, was the OPC Foundation's GroundTruth Project fellow. Nocera did some work for GroundTruth this summer on its Democracy project. Also joining GroundTruth is **William Martin III**, the 2020 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner. Most recently, he has been working with indigenous communities in Brazil to create a short documentary on the growing and sometimes violent conflict between the environment, those who protect it, and the exploitative economies poisoning it. Also among the new Migration fellows is **Joseph Ataman**, the 2017 Roy Rowan Scholarship winner. Ataman had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Turkey. He has been working as a freelance video producer with CNN.

A number of OPC Foundation scholars reported on the massive deadly explosion in Beirut on Aug. 4, including 2007 Stan Swinton Scholarship winner **Ben Hubbard**, whose breaking news [reporting](#) on the tragedy and its aftermath was on the front page of The New York Times. Hubbard currently serves as Beirut bureau chief for the Times. 2014 Jerry Flint Fellowship winner **John Ismay**, who covers armed conflict for The New York Times Magazine from the Washington bureau, [wrote a piece](#) on Aug. 6 about how he used his military training and bomb expertise to bolster the Times coverage of the explosion.

2017 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner **Sara Dadouch**, now a Beirut-based correspondent for The Washington Post, [wrote a harrowing first-person account](#) of her experience during the blast, as "every door inside my apartment, hinges and all, was ripped out of the walls. So was my air conditioner. My big fan

split right in half. My massive living room windows flew at me. The glass didn't just shatter; the windows themselves flew clean off. I genuinely, even now, have no idea how I am not dead." She detailed scenes of aftermath and rescue efforts, including "Volunteers and paramedics were combing the streets late into the night, shining blue lights and calling out for people to signal to them if they were stuck in the rubble." Dadouch had an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Beirut before she landed the Post gig.

AWARDS

The winner of this year's OPC Edward R. Murrow Award, an episode of the New York Times' Weekly show, titled "**Collision**," also garnered three News and Documentary Emmy nominations. The piece, which investigates the ISIS murders of bicycle tourists Jay Austin and Lauren Geoghegan in Tajikistan, received Emmy nominations in the categories of Outstanding Writing, Outstanding Video Journalism: News, and Outstanding Editing: News. Nominations were [announced](#) on Aug. 6. The OPC will host an online discussion with the team from "Collision," including OPC members **Singeli Agnew** and **Rukmini Callimachi**, on Sept. 17 (scroll up to read more and RSVP or [click here](#)).

Several other OPC members took to social media to celebrate Emmy nomination announcements, including OPC Governor **Adriane Quinlan**, supervising writer for VICE News and winner of the OPC Foundation's 2013 Flora Lewis internship, who [noted](#) that the group received 18 nominations, including 16 for VICE News Tonight, which is the most of any nightly newscast. OPC member **Sara Just**, executive producer of PBS NewsHour, [touted](#) the show's seven nominations. OPC member **Christiane Amanpour's** show received two nominations, for Outstanding Investigative Report in a Newscast and Outstanding Live Interview.

UPDATES

Along with OPC Foundation scholars mentioned above, OPC member **Campbell MacDiarmid** has been [covering](#) the explosion extensively in Beirut for The Telegraph as the paper's Middle East correspondent. He filed a total of eight stories since the blast struck on Aug. 4. His Twitter account declares that he is "soon to be based in Beirut." MacDiarmid was formerly with the AFP, and joined the OPC in 2016 as a freelancer based in Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

OPC member **Amy MacKinnon** wrote a piece for Foreign Policy [on July 29](#) about the arrest of more than 30 fighters from Russia's private military contractor Wagner Group in Belarus that sparked government speculation about Russian interference ahead of next month's election. She said the Belarus state news agency alleged that more than 200 Russian-backed militants have been dispatched to the country to destabilize it ahead of the election on Aug. 9. She said other analysts have said Belarus is merely a pass-through point for mercenaries en route to conflict areas such as Syria, Sudan and Libya. MacKinnon serves as staff writer for Foreign Policy.

The **Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong** [announced on Aug. 5](#) that journalism and editor Kate Springer will serve as editor of the club's magazine, The Correspondent. During her journalism career in Hong Kong, Springer

contributed to regional and international magazines including Conde Nast Traveler, National Geographic, Vogue and Tatler. A writer and editor, she has founded her own content agency. She is also the managing editor of Ariana, a Hong Kong-based publication focused on social justice issues, and the Hong Kong and Macau correspondent for Forbes Travel Guide.

People Column August 2020

Press Freedom Update

The **Washington Post Press Freedom Partnership** on Aug. 3 released its monthly roster of the 10 most pressing cases of journalists under attack. The list includes **Austin Tice**, in honor of the 8-year anniversary of the journalist's capture in Syria, and **Maria Ressa**, editor on trial in the Philippines for bogus charges connected to her work. The list also includes journalist **Azimjon Askarov** in Kyrgyzstan, whose death due to medical neglect while serving a life sentence highlights risks for incarcerated journalists around the world. Other cases on the list underscore press freedom concerns in Iran, Burundi, Russia, India, Morocco, Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** on Aug. 4 [reported on new government tactics](#) used against reporters in Kashmir to discredit their work and intimidate media. "I've never seen this kind of retribution from the state for reporting what is happening on the ground," Srinagar-based senior journalist Peerzada Ashiq, a correspondent for the national daily The Hindu, told the CPJ. Police in Kashmir launched an investigation and accused Ashiq of publishing "fake news" in April after he published an article about the families of two militants who wanted to exhume their bodies to perform funeral rites. Several other journalists described escalating use of intimidation tactics in the report.

Reporters Without Borders (RWB) and the Zimbabwean branch of the **Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA)** have [written a letter](#) to Zimbabwe's information minister voicing alarm about a spike in assaults on journalists and arrests in connection with their coverage of the coronavirus crisis. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the watchdog has registered more than 100 press freedom violations in Africa linked to coverage of the crisis. A quarter of the violations have taken place in Zimbabwe, the continent's biggest offender.



10 Most Urgent List for August 2020
The 10 most pressing cases of journalists under attack, as identified by the One Free Press Coalition, include:

1. **Austin Tice (Syria):** Eight years without updates regarding American reporter who disappeared in Syria.
2. **Maria Ressa (Philippines):** Editor on trial exemplifies Filipino government's silencing of independent media.
3. **Azimjon Askarov (Kyrgyzstan):** Medical neglect caused death of journalist serving life sentence.
4. **Roshollah Zam (Iran):** Journalist planning to appeal death sentence.
5. **Agnès Hérubusa and the team at Iwacu (Burundi):** Court denies appeal for four journalists serving 20 years.
6. **Svetlana Prokopyeva (Russia):** Journalist describes harassment and conviction as intimidation.
7. **Asaf Sultan (India):** Journalist jailed two years without trial.
8. **Omar Radi (Morocco):** Independent journalist jailed after repeated interrogations and intimidation.
9. **Sakaf Magdy (Egypt):** Prison conditions threaten journalist's health and safety from COVID-19.
10. **Jamal Khashoggi (Saudi Arabia):** Quest for government information persists nearly two years after journalist's killing.

ONE FREE PRESS COALITION

The Press Freedom Partnership is a public service initiative from The Washington Post to promote press freedom and raise awareness of the rights of journalists worldwide who are in pursuit of the truth.

www.wapo.it/pressfreedom
@wppressfreedom

