



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Jan. 27, 2021

Greetings!

This week's Bulletin features information about the [OPC program to give \\$2000 grants to Afghan journalists](#) who fled turmoil to help rebuild their lives in the U.S.

- We're still gathering information from members for a directory, so please [click the link](#) to add your information to this great networking tool.
- Monday, Jan. 31 is the deadline to [submit entries](#) for the OPC awards contest. We always appreciate help from members who share the link on social media.
- RSVP for upcoming programs, including a discussion coming up [on Feb. 3 with Nadja Drost](#), a book night [on Feb. 16 with OPC member Mark Clifford](#) to discuss *Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow The World*, and a new book night [on March 3 with OPC member Peter S. Goodman](#) to discuss *Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World*.

Plus, lots of member news and journalist resources to check out below.



A banner for the OPC Annual Awards. The background is a dense, colorful web of thin lines. In the top left, there is a pink circular logo for the Overseas Press Club of America. Next to it is a blue starburst graphic that says "Honoring the Best in International Journalism". The main text "CALL FOR ENTRIES ANNUAL AWARDS" is in large, bold, yellow and white letters. Below this, it says "Enter Online: www.opcofamerica.org". On the right side, there is a blue box with white text that says "We invite you to submit entries for international coverage in Newspapers, News Services, Digital, Magazines, Radio, Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons, Books and Photography." Below that, a yellow box says "Eligibility Period: January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021". At the bottom right, a blue box contains the "General Deadline: January 31, 2022" and "Cornelius Ryan Award Deadline: January 10, 2022".

OPC
Overseas Press Club
of America

Honoring
the Best in
International
Journalism

**CALL FOR
ENTRIES
ANNUAL AWARDS**

Enter Online:
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We invite you to submit
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News Services, Digital,
Magazines, Radio, Podcasts,
Television, Video, Cartoons,
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Eligibility Period:
**January 1, 2021 -
December 31, 2021**

General Deadline:
January 31, 2022
Cornelius Ryan Award Deadline:
January 10, 2022

The application deadline for this year's OPC Annual Awards is Monday, Jan. 31 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time.

Click on the button below to read more and submit entries. Thank you again to all who have helped us spread the word on social and professional networks. Please consider sharing the link again as we close in on the deadline!

[OPC Annual Awards Submission Page](#)

OPC Awards \$2,000 Grants to Afghan Journalists in the United States

The OPC announced on Jan. 24 that a panel of judges chose 15 Afghan journalists who fled their country and who are now in the United States to each receive \$2,000 grants to help them adapt to new lives in America. The funding was made possible by a grant from the Poklon Foundation, based in Santa Monica, Calif., and contributions from OPC members. "We are beyond elated that we were able to take this small but important step in helping the Afghan journalistic diaspora," OPC President Paula Dwyer said.

Four of the 15 winners asked that their names not be revealed publicly because they fear the consequences for family members still in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. The other 11 are:

- Esmatullah Ahmadzai, Shamshad Radio and Television.
- Mohammad Edris Akbari, The Kabul Times.
- Soniya Azhman, Neshana News and Pursesh News.
- Lima Hadi, Radio Azadi.

- Javed Ahmad Kakar, Pajhwok news agency.
- Khadim Hussain Karimi, Eliaatroz newspaper.
- Khushnood Nabizada, Khaama Press.
- Frozan Nasir, Chekhad Television.
- Anisa Shaheed, TOLO News.
- Sohrab Soroush, Eliaatroz newspaper.
- Lutf Ali Sultani, Eliaatroz newspaper.

Seven of the 15 winners are women, reflecting their prominent role in the Afghan media scene that flourished until the Taliban seized control in August. Women journalists also had particularly urgent reasons to flee because of threats from the Taliban. The winners are currently residing in Georgia, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York and Virginia.

The winners' ages ranged from 26 to 50 years. The winners who chose to reveal their ethnicities were from multiple Afghan groups, including Pashtun, Hazara and Tajik.

To conduct a competition for the grants, the OPC tapped into the email networks of Afghan journalists it had personal contact with at U.S. military bases and they spread the word. The OPC was flooded with 291 applications from all over the world, even from inside Afghanistan, but only Afghan journalists in the U.S. were eligible. "It's been five months since the fall of Kabul and these journalists have been trapped in tremendous uncertainty about their future," said William J. Holstein of the OPC board and president of the OPC Foundation, who chaired the judging process. "Their needs are enormous and we hope this is just a first step in helping them."

[Read More](#)

There is an important post script to this story. After the grant decisions had been made, the OPC rallied for an additional effort that Holstein called "a kind of miracle."

After the judges' numerical scores had been added up and 15 winners were determined, one of our judges, Abdul Wahid Wafa, who worked for the New York Times in Afghanistan and is now at Princeton University, pointed out that one applicant, Neamatullah Naqdi, 29, had been beaten and tortured by the Taliban in September. Naqdi, a video reporter on contract for the Kabul-based Eliaatroz newspaper, stayed in Kabul after the fall and was arrested on Sept. 8 by the Taliban with four colleagues. "We were tortured near to death," Naqdi wrote in his application. He supplied graphic video images to support his claim. "We were obligated to leave Kabul to save our lives," he added.

There was some confusion among judges because at first it seemed that the applicant had merely videoed someone else who had been beaten. But Wahid confirmed that the applicant, Naqdi, was one of the victims shown in the video.

Our judges started donating and then Marjorie Miller of The Associated Press suggested we ask the OPC board for contributions. Suddenly, we had \$3,000 and

it was all for Naqdi. He's now at Fort Pickett in Virginia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 3: 'How I Did It'

Nadja Drost Reveals How She Reported and Wrote the Pulitzer-Prize Winning Story on Migrants Crossing the Darien Gap

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Place: Online via Zoom

Nadja Drost and editor Kit Rachlis will kick off the OPC's new series "How I Did It," pairing freelance journalists with their editors or producers. The OPC's goal is to offer our many freelance members the opportunity to interact with highly successful journalists. Topics will include how to pitch a story, secure funding, interact with editors and everything in between. Future programs will feature photographers, documentarians and cartoonists.



APRIL 2, 2020

"When can we really rest?"

More migrants than ever are crossing the Colombia-Panama border to reach the U.S. Five days inside the Darién Gap, one of the most dangerous journeys in the world.

By Nadja Drost

Photographs by Carlos Villalón, Bruno Federico, and Lisette Poole

Moderating the discussion will be **Marina Walker Guevara**, an OPC governor and executive editor at the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting..

Nadja Drost is a Pulitzer Prize- and Emmy Award-winning journalist and documentary filmmaker who works across print, radio, television, and documentary film.

Her reporting on the extraordinary journey of migrants from around the world who traverse the Darien Gap – a road-less, mountainous jungle straddling the Colombia-Panama border – to reach the U.S., won several awards. [A longform piece](#) she wrote for the [California Sunday Magazine](#) was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Feature Writing, as well as first place for Magazine Feature Writing from the National Headliner Awards, the One World Media Refugee Reporting Award, and Honorable Mention from the James Foley Medill Medal for Courage in Journalism.

A television series about the Darien Gap, 'Desperate Journey,' she reported with videographer Bruno Federico for the PBS NewsHour, was recognized with an Emmy and Peabody award, and received the Best in Show for television from the

National Headliners Award in 2021.

Kit Rachlis is a senior editor at ProPublica. He spent seven years as a senior editor at California Sunday Magazine, where he oversaw Drost's Darien Gap story, "When Can We Really Rest?" Previously, Rachlis was a senior editor at The Atlantic. He also served as editor in chief of LA Weekly, Los Angeles magazine and the American Prospect and as a senior projects editor at the Los Angeles Times. Stories he edited have won a Livingston Award, a George Polk Award, a John Bartlow Martin Award, a James Beard Award, a PEN USA Award and a Front Page Award.

RSVP Now



Feb 16: Book Night With Mark Clifford To Discuss 'Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow The World'

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Place: Online via Zoom

OPC member **Mark Clifford** argues in his new book that China's repressive tactics in Hong Kong are a playbook for other repressive regimes, serving as what he called a "blueprint for the sorts of tactics that China is increasingly wielding against democratic societies around the globe."

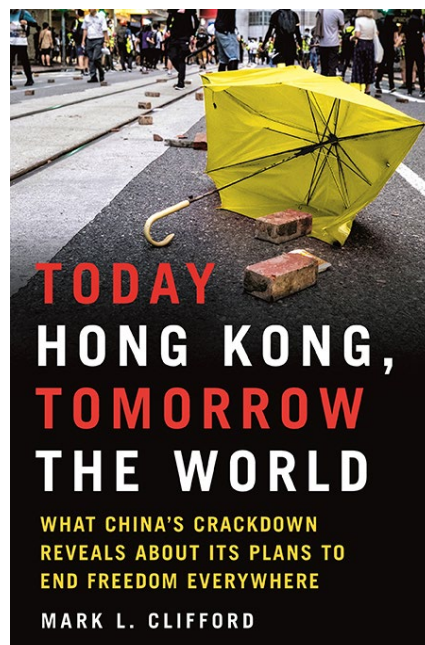
Join the OPC for a Book Night on Feb. 16 to discuss *Today Hong Kong, Tomorrow the World: What China's Crackdown Reveals About Its Plans to End Freedom Everywhere*.

The moderator will be OPC Governor **Jodi Schneider**, political news director at Bloomberg News.

[The book is available for purchase here.](#)

Registrants will receive a link to join the Zoom call about an hour before the program.

Clifford is currently the director of the Committee for Freedom in Hong Kong. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Hong Kong. An honors history graduate of the University of California Berkeley and a Walter Bagehot Fellow at Columbia University, he lived in Asia from 1987 until 2021. Previously, Clifford was executive director of the Hong Kong-based Asia Business Council, the editor-in-chief of the South China Morning Post (Hong Kong), and publisher and editor-



in-chief of The Standard (Hong Kong). He held senior editorial positions at BusinessWeek and the Far Eastern Economic Review in Hong Kong and Seoul and has received numerous prizes and awards for his books and journalism.

RSVP Now



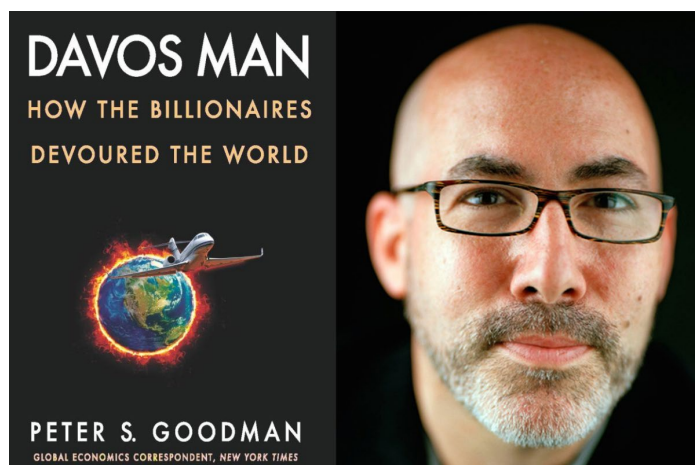
March 3: Book Night With Peter S. Goodman To Discuss 'Davos Man'

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time.

Place: Online via Zoom

Join the OPC for a Book Night with **Peter S. Goodman**, former OPC governor and longtime business reporter at the New York Times, to discuss his new book, *Davos Man: How the Billionaires Devoured the World*. The

book, published by Custom House on Jan. 18, profiles five representative "Davos Men," members of the billionaire class, chronicling how their exploitation of the global pandemic has hastened a fifty-year trend of wealth centralization.



OPC President **Paula Dwyer** will moderate.

[The book is available for purchase here >>](#)

RSVP Now

Please Add Your Information for the 2022 OPC Member Directory

Thank you to OPC members who have sent their information to be included in a digital directory that we plan to share with OPC colleagues. We'd like to add many more. This year, members who wish to participate can opt-in by filling out the Google Form linked below. We will share the results with members in February. We hope it will make it easier for you to connect with fellow journalists. Only members who are up-to-date with 2021-22 dues will be included.

Welcome New Member

Craig Forman

Managing General Partner
Next News Ventures, LLC
San Francisco
Associate Non-Resident

Yasmine Mosimann

Freelance
Baghdad
Active Overseas, Young
(29 and under)

Valerie Pires

Investigative Journalist
Documentary Filmmaker
& Photographer
Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting
New York
Student

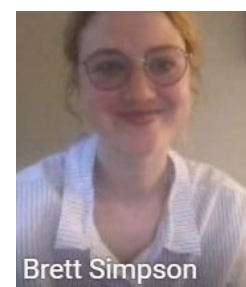
People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Akash Pasricha, winner of the 2021 Jerry Flint Award for International Business Reporting, has been [named](#) a reporter at The Information covering venture capitalism, startups, crypto and bio/healthtech. The Information is an online publication based in San Francisco that was founded in 2013 by former Wall Street Journal reporter Jessica Lessin. Its main focus is in-depth analysis of the technology industry.



Brett Simpson, the 2021 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner, filed a story [on Dec. 30](#) for Public Radio International's The World about environmentalists and Indigenous rights activists trying to block construction of a zero-emissions copper mine in the Norwegian Arctic. The topic is related to the subject of her winning essay for the OPC Foundation scholarship. The story is part of Simpson's environmental reporting fellowship from the Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, which she began last summer. Since then, she also produced pieces about melting sea ice [in August](#) and Norway's contradictory plans to tackle climate change while remaining a major oil exporter [in September](#).



Jake Kincaid, the Reuters Fellowship winner in 2020, was named to a nine-month fellowship with Columbia Journalism Investigations to build a database measuring prosecutorial misconduct in six states. Kincaid recently returned from Mexico City where he was an OPC Foundation fellow in the Reuters

bureau. While in Mexico, he worked on daily coverage, including the Nicaraguan and Honduran elections, and longer term projects; such as, [climate-driven landslides](#) and [U.S. deportations](#) of Nicaraguan migrants.



AWARDS

OPC Governor **Hendrik Hinzel** was [named](#) among the VICE News team nominated for the 33rd annual GLAAD Awards in the category of Outstanding Online Journalism – Video or Multimedia for their series “Transnational.” The awards honor media for fair, accurate, and inclusive representations of LGBTQ people and issues. The “Transnational” series included episodes on a trans healthcare crisis in the UK, deadly threats against trans people in Mexico, a fight against workplace discrimination in India, and a Quran school for trans Muslims in Indonesia. Hinzel is a senior field producer at VICE News. A playlist of episodes is available to watch [on YouTube here](#).



OPC Governor **Raney Aronson-Rath**, executive producer for FRONTLINE, celebrated the NAACP Image Awards [nomination](#) for the production team of *Un(re)solved*, an investigative podcast looking into the U.S. Department of Justice investigation of more than 150 unsolved civil-rights era killings. The show series is nominated for the category of Outstanding News and Information Podcast. [Listen to the podcast here](#).



UPDATES

Azmat Khan, the OPC’s First Vice President, spoke on a [Jan. 18 episode](#) of The New York Times’ podcast “The Daily” about her investigative reporting on civilian casualties from U.S.-led airstrikes that the military has systematically underreported. She told host Michael Barbaro that thousands of internal military documents she analyzed revealed to her that “the military hasn’t prioritized accountability in a meaningful way.” In a [tweet](#) about the episode, Khan said “I hope you’ll listen through the end — to the interview I’ll never forget,” referring to a recorded conversation she had with airstrike survivors that was aired during the episode. The episode discusses the first phase of her reporting on the issue, which Khan and her colleague Anand Gopal did for the [New York Times Magazine in 2017](#) and went on to win the OPC’s Ed Cunningham Award for that year. She also talks about her visits over the course of years to more than 100 strike sites with civilian casualties. Khan has continued investigating the issue as part of a New York



Times team, including a piece [on Dec. 31](#) with the documents she received revealing "inconsistent approaches to assessing claims of civilians killed by coalition forces, including failures to conduct simple internet searches."

OPC Governor **Melissa Noel** had her [debut feature](#) in Essence Magazine late last year with a piece about the global ecosystem of Caribbean carnivals, their economic impact and the post-covid comeback. Noel is a freelance multimedia journalist in New York City with a focus on culture, race, travel, immigration, climate change, mental health and the Caribbean, and has reported from over 35 countries during her career. She has been [writing](#) for Essence since July 2020, with pieces on the fight against racial injustice in the Caribbean, Black women entrepreneurs in the U.S. and Africa, eruptions in St. Vincent last year and voting rights in the U.S, among many others. The Carib Biz Network named Melissa Noel one of its Top 50 Caribbean American Entrepreneurs in 2020.



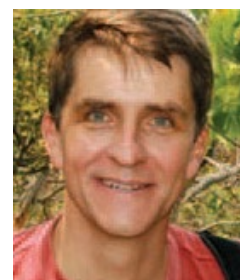
OPC member **Anne-Elisabeth Moutet** has been reporting for GBNews from Paris on election prospects for French Presidential candidate Eric Zemmour, a far-right politician who is campaigning on a nationalist platform. He was recently fined 10,000 Euros for "inciting hatred and racial abuse" in comments aimed at migrants during an interview in September 2020. Moutet, a political analyst, [said](#) observers are watching to see if Zemmour's rivals will benefit from him being portrayed as a racist, and in [a Jan. 20](#) appearance, Moutet said Zemmour has "lots of supporters," and added that "He's the newest and most interesting thing to come from this race."



Andrew Nagorski, an author, past OPC award winner and long-time club member, has received his first advance praise for a book about Sigmund Freud that is set to be published in May. [Saving Freud: His Rescuers Who Brought Him to Freedom](#) chronicles Freud's escape to London after Germany annexed Austria in March 1938. Sylvia Nasar, author of *A Beautiful Mind* called the book "an intimate, touching portrait of a genius as an old man. Ill, myopic, in denial and terribly vulnerable, this Freud is more human than any I've encountered before. Andrew Nagorski has an artist's eye for revealing detail and a novelist's ability to bring to life a long lost world and its myriad denizens." Nagorski won the OPC's 1978 Bache Award for best business news reporting from abroad for work in Newsweek.



OPC member **Keith Bradsher** has been covering final preparations for the Winter Olympics in Beijing for The New York Times, with pieces covering restrictions at the games and uncertainty about how coronavirus will affect the events. [On Jan. 12](#), he wrote a piece with colleague Amy Qin about lockdowns in China amid rapid spread of the Omicron variant. [On Jan. 22](#), he filed a slideshow with text describing his 17-month observation of the building of Olympic facilities and also



[co-wrote a longform piece](#) about how China has grappled with obstacles, including “an unending pandemic and mounting international concern over its authoritarian behavior.” That article also covers International Olympic Committee’s response to critics, saying the committee has “deflected questions about human rights and other controversies overshadowing the Games” despite its own charter to improve promotion and respect for human rights.

MEDIA NEWS

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has [named Jodie Ginsberg](#), a longtime journalist and press freedom advocate, as the organization’s next president. Joel Simon, who served as the CPJ’s executive director for 15 years, [announced](#) last June that he would resign at the end of last year. Ginsberg is slated to take over her new post in April. She most recently worked for the last two years as chief executive for the European division of Internews, a nonprofit that trains independent journalists around the world. Ginsberg started her career in journalism working for Reuters in Johannesburg as a business correspondent, and later was head of the agency’s London bureau. She also led Index on Censorship, a nonprofit freedom of expression organization.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Michael Parks, a former top editor of the Los Angeles Times, died on Jan. 8 at in Pasadena, California at the age of 78. Parks was international correspondent from 1970 to 1995, first for The Baltimore Sun and then for the L.A. Times. His reporting career spanned the Vietnam War, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and as bureau chief in Johannesburg he covered the fight to end apartheid in South Africa, for which he won a Pulitzer Prize. In a [Jan. 14 piece](#) about Parks for the Times, OPC Governor **Scott Kraft**, who serves as head awards judge and is managing editor at the the paper, called him a “student of liberation struggles.” He said many of Park’s sources, including exiled leaders of the African National Congress, enjoyed discussing political philosophy and strategy with him.

People Column Jan. 27

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** hosts the Pamela Howard Forum on Global Crisis Reporting, a group on Facebook that facilitates weekly webinars, global collaborations, and shared resources for journalists. [Read more and join the group here.](#)

The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** has recently updated its tipsheet for improving digital safety while working at home. The page provides best practices for thwarting possible threats from anti-vaxxers and conspiracy

theorists, including online harassment, doxxing, and account hacking. [Read more here.](#)

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

OPC member and photojournalist **Daniella Zalzman** will co-teach an intensive photo editing workshop over the weekend of Jan. 29 and 30. She will join photojournalist **Natalie Keyssar** to walk participants through “best practices, philosophies, and strategies for editing your photos for different formats and objectives,” and will use examples to take “a deep dive into editing documentary photography for websites, portfolio reviews, grant applications, assignments, competitions, and books.” The fee is \$200. [Read more and apply here.](#)

On Feb. 2 at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time, the **Center for Media at Risk** at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania will host a roundtable discussion on the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan and the future of Afghan media. [Read more and register here.](#)

Registration is open for the **Investigative Reporters and Editors (IRE)** annual data journalism conference from March 3 to 6. The conference, from an IRE program known as the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting (NICAR), will be held as a hybrid of online and in-person events in Atlanta, Georgia. It will include classes, lectures and workshops to sharpen computer-assisted reporting skills and keep current with developments in digital journalism. [Read more and register here.](#)

The **Foreign Press Association (FPA)** posted an interview on Jan. 14 with Nina Khrushcheva, New School professor and grand-daughter of Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, to discuss the implications of Russia's recent withdrawal of its troops from Kazakhstan. OPC member Ian Williams, the president of the FPA, hosted the discussion. [Watch the video here.](#)

The International Journalists' Network (IJNet) has posted a recording of its webinar from Jan. 20 on covering the climate crisis. Panelists were veteran reporters covering climate change, including Yessenia Funes of Atmos, Steven Mufson of The Washington Post, Eric Roston of Bloomberg and Lauren Sommer of NPR. ICFJ's president Sharon Moshavi moderated. [Watch the video here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **W. Eugene Smith Fund** is calling for applicants for a program that supports “photographers whose work follows the tradition of W. Eugene Smith’s humanistic photography and dedicated compassion.” This grant is designed to help a photographer begin a photographic project or help complete an ongoing photographic project. The deadline to apply is May 31 at midnight, Eastern Time. [Read more and apply here.](#)

ProPublica’s Local Reporting Network is looking for three new investigative journalism projects to begin on April 1 and continue for one year. ProPublica will pay the salary (up to \$75,000), plus an allowance for benefits, for each full-time

reporter. The group is looking for journalists “to take on ambitious accountability projects.” The deadline to apply is Feb. 16 at midnight Pacific Time. [Read more and apply here](#).

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** is calling for journalists from the U.S., Canada and Germany to apply for this year’s Arthur F. Burns Fellowship exchange program. Applications are due by March 1. [Read more and apply here](#).

The **ICFJ** and the ONE Campaign are sponsoring the Michael Elliott Award for Excellence in African Storytelling to honor two up-and-coming journalists in Africa in 2022. Entries will be selected based on quality and the impact their work has had in communities. Winners will receive a cash prize, a \$1,000 reporting grant, and a personalized crystal award. One winner will receive a two-week internship at The Economist in London, and another will spend time in U.S. newsrooms in Washington, D.C., and New York City. Applications are open until Jan. 30. [Read more and apply here](#).

Applications are open for the **Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economics and Business Journalism** at Columbia University. The fellowship is open to full-time editorial employees of newspapers, magazines, wire services, digital media, television and radio news organizations, as well as to freelance journalists, from anywhere in the world. The application deadline for the 2022-23 academic year is Jan. 31, 2022. [Read more and apply here](#).

The **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** is calling for applications for the Ochberg Fellowship, a program for senior and mid-career journalists “who wish to deepen their knowledge of emotional trauma and psychological injury, and improve reporting on violence, conflict and tragedy.” This year’s fellowship will be held July 22 to 28 at Columbia University in New York. Applications are due by Feb. 22. [Read more and apply here](#).

More Resources

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

