



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Dec. 16, 2022

Dear Chad,

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Bulletin as we wrap up coverage for 2022. Featured items this week include:

- A [recap and video](#) of Tuesday's program with Afghan journalists discussing the media landscape for Afghanistan one year after the Taliban takeover.
- A [profile](#) of OPC grantee and member Jill Langlois.
- A full [recap](#) of our last "How I Did It" program with New York Times journalists talking about their China surveillance investigation.
- [On Jan. 12](#), join the next "How I Did It" program with Marcus Yam of the Los Angeles Times to talk about his photography documenting the U.S. departure from Afghanistan

Plus, catch up on OPC member news in the People Column, find tools, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.



Reminder: OPC Annual Awards

The graphic features a background of colorful, tangled lines. In the top left, the OPC logo (a globe with 'OPC' text) is shown above 'Overseas Press Club of America'. A blue starburst contains the text 'Honoring the Best in International Journalism'. The central text reads 'CALL FOR ENTRIES ANNUAL AWARDS' in large, bold, yellow and white letters. To the right, a dark green box contains text about the awards, eligibility, and deadlines. At the bottom left, it says 'Enter Online: www.opcofamerica.org'.

OPC
Overseas Press Club
of America

Honoring
the Best in
International
Journalism

**CALL FOR
ENTRIES
ANNUAL AWARDS**

Enter Online:
www.opcofamerica.org

We are now accepting
applications online.

Annual awards for INTERNATIONAL
COVERAGE in Newspapers, News
Services, Digital, Magazines, Radio,
Podcasts, Television, Video, Cartoons,
Books and Photography.

ELIGIBILITY: Work must be published
or broadcast in the U.S. or by a
U.S.-based company or be accessible
to an American audience for the
first time during 2022 with reporting
primarily outside the U.S.

Eligibility Period:
January 1, 2022 -
December 31, 2022

General Deadline:
January 31, 2023
Cornelius Ryan Book
Award Deadline:
January 9, 2023
Awards Dinner:
April 27, 2023
at Cipriani, 25 Broadway

Applications are open for the OPC Annual Awards honoring the year's best in international journalism across 22 categories. Click on the button below to read more and submit entries. Please continue to help us spread the word on social media and professional networks!

[OPC Annual Awards Submission Page](#)



Afghan Journalists Reflect on Media Under Taliban Rule and Lack of International Attention

by Chad Bouchard

Three Afghan journalists working outside the country before or after the Taliban takeover last year told an OPC audience on Dec. 13 that they are still fighting to tell stories of hope and despair about Afghanistan despite flagging interest from international media.

Deborah Amos, a governor of the OPC and a longtime reporter at National Public Radio covering the Middle East, served as moderator for the panel, which was focused on how Afghan journalists are reinventing themselves more than a year after the U.S. pulled troops out of the country.

“When the Taliban took over, there was a sudden collapse of so many

achievements gained in the past 20 years,” said Zahra Nader, editor-in-chief of [Zan Times](#), a media outlet that covers human rights in Afghanistan with a focus on women, the LGBT community and environmental issues. “Freedom of media, women’s rights, anything you can name – we felt August [2021] was the end of all of those.”

[Read the Full Recap](#)



Upcoming Events

Jan. 12: 'How I Did It' - Los Angeles Times Photographer Marcus Yam Explains His Approach to Covering Conflict

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Location: Online via Zoom

Marcus Yam is a roving Los Angeles Times foreign correspondent and staff photographer. In 2022, he won the [Pulitzer Prize](#) for breaking news photography for images documenting the U.S. departure from Afghanistan that capture the human cost of the historic change in the country. Yam will discuss his work with **Calvin Hom**, executive director of photography at the LAT. OPC Governor **Sandra Stevenson**, deputy director of photography at The Washington Post, will moderate.

Spotlight on OPC Grant Recipients:

Jill Langlois

The following is the second profile in our periodic series covering the work of journalists who have received grants from the OPC.

by Chad Bouchard

There are at least two reasons OPC member Jill Langlois seemed bound for a life in journalism from a very early age. During childhood she was a voracious reader of the local newspaper, the Sault Star of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, as well as magazines she pulled from stacks such as Scholastic, TIME, The New Yorker, The Walrus, This and Maisonneuve. Another clear sign was that people around her said she asked “too many questions.”



“I would interrupt somebody’s story to ask them what color a jacket was or what the weather was like. When I found out I could keep doing that but speak to all kinds of people in places all over the world, it seemed like a dream.”

Following that dream took Langlois across hemispheres and landed her in São Paulo, Brazil where she has been working as an independent journalist since 2010, now with bylines in some of those same publications she devoured from her childhood coffee table. She has written for National Geographic, The New York Times, TIME and The Guardian, among others.

In March 2021, Langlois applied for and received an OPC COVID-19 micro-grant of \$1,000, one of the 92 OPC grants funded by the Ford Foundation. She said the grant was what got her through the early part of the pandemic.

“I was in São Paulo and still working, but a lot less and with a lot of trepidation. Knowing that I had that grant helped me make better decisions about taking assignments, because I wasn’t as worried about finances,” she said. “During a time of a lot of anxiety and uncertainty, it gave me some calm.”

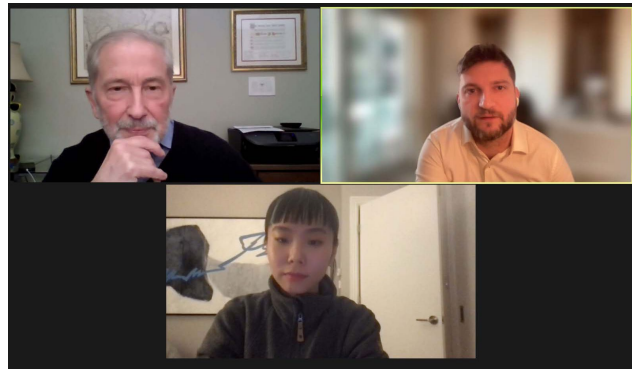
The grant came with a free 18-month honorary OPC membership and an OPC press ID. Langlois joined as a full, dues paying member when her honorary membership expired this fall.

[Read More](#)

New York Times Reporters Discuss Covering China's Expanding Surveillance State in 'How I Did It' Program

by Chad Bouchard

For New York Times reporters Muiyi Xiao and Paul Mozur, the old journalists' creed "follow the money" bears an update for contemporary times: "follow the data." Particularly when covering a country like China where on-the-ground coverage is risky and difficult, reporters must rely on data and other digital sources that are accessible from outside the country's borders, the two said during an OPC program on Nov. 30.



The program, moderated by OPC Past President William J. Holstein, was part of the OPC's series of "How I Did it" talks with journalists to give behind-the-scenes insight into their reporting. Xiao, who was born and raised in China, started her journalism career working for Reuters and other outlets in China until 2017 when she moved to the U.S. to work for ChinaFile. She is now a reporter and producer on the Times visual investigations team, which combines traditional reporting with advanced digital forensics. Mozur is a correspondent focused on technology and geopolitics in Asia. He was expelled from China in 2020 and is now based in Seoul.

Xiao and Mozur gathered string for two years for their two-part series for the Times, which analyzed a cache of more than 100,000 government bidding documents, with help from ChinaFile, to glean what kinds of domestic surveillance Chinese law enforcement and other agencies are trying to develop, and how those technologies were put to use.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Hayley Woodin, the 2022 Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner, has been [promoted](#) to editor-in-chief of the news outlet Business in Vancouver (BIV). She had been executive editor there since 2020. In her new role, she'll be responsible for day-to-day editorial operations.



Amelia Nierenberg, the 2018 Flora Lewis Fellowship winner, wrote a piece for The New York Times [on Dec. 5](#) covering the reactions of Chinese expatriates in the United States as they watch protests at home. "They fear that with the return of lockdowns, their families will again not have enough food," she wrote. "They wait for friends to resurface online after attending demonstrations. They try to communicate and to evade censors' algorithms on Chinese social media." Nierenberg stepped into a new role at the Times in October as writer for the paper's Asia-Pacific Morning Briefing.



Dake Kang, the Fritz Beebe Fellowship winner in 2016, wrote an extensive tweet thread about his visit to several fever clinics in Beijing [on Dec. 13](#). Kang has been reporting for The Associated Press from China over the past few years, including coverage of the early days of the pandemic. He is now frequently filing stories on the new wave of COVID-19 outbreaks and policies. In his most recent social media posts, he wrote that "If the medical system here can hold up for the next couple of weeks, Beijing might just make it through without a large number of fatalities, which would be a huge relief." His thread includes video clips from clinics and details about delivery driver shortages amid intensive lockdowns. Kang was part of an AP team that won the OPC's 2020 Roy Rowan Award. His OPC Foundation fellowship was with the AP in Bangkok.



Anna Nicolaou, winner of the S&P Award for Economic and Business Reporting in 2014, won the Personality Profile award from the Los Angeles Press Club for a piece she co-wrote with colleague Andrew Edgecliffe-Johnson for the Financial Times entitled, "[The last mogul: an interview with Universal Music's Lucian Grainge](#)" The judges praised her profile about a movie mogul's near-death experience from COVID. Nicolaou had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Brussels.



The Newswomen's Club of New York [named Valerie Hopkins](#), an OPC member and winner of the Jerry Flint Internship for International Business Reporting in 2013, as the 2022 Marie Colvin Award for Foreign Correspondence for providing crucial updates and insights into the war in Ukraine and life under Russian occupation.



In addition, **Gabriela Bhaskar**, the 2017 David R.

Schweisberg Scholarship winner, won in the Photography Feature category from the Newswomen's Club of New York for a submission that included photographs from an abortion clinic, a funeral after the Buffalo mass shooting and the life of a teenager.



Marina Villeneuve, the 2013 Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner, has a new job as an investigative reporter covering veterans/military service for The War Horse, a non-profit news organization educating the public on military service. She spent the last six years with The Associate Press, where she covered state governments first in Maine and then New York. Her coverage will range from extremism to the Veterans Administration. "It's full circle," she said, "My dad's quest for VA benefits fueled my zeal for journalism."



AWARDS

Elisabetta Zavoli, an OPC member and photographer who Bulletin readers will remember was profiled in our last issue, has [won](#) an Italian Sustainability Photo Award (ISPA) from the photojournalist agency Parallelozero. She was honored in the category of best photo story, which comes with a cash award. Zavoli also received a special prize in that contest, the Nikon - Capture Tomorrow award, for her "Crime School" project focused on the theme of social rehabilitation in a prison context. Read her recent OPC profile [here](#).



UPDATES

The New York Times has [announced](#) that **Daniel Berehulak**, an OPC member and photographer based in Mexico City, will join the paper as staff photographer correspondent.

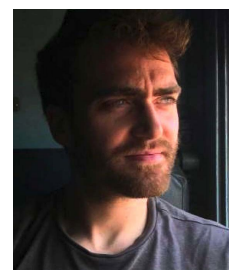
Berehulak has been a contributor for the Times since he began freelancing in 2013, most recently with coverage of the war in Ukraine. He began his photography career in 2000 and then joined Getty Images based in London and later New Delhi from 2005 to 2013, during which he won the OPC's 2010 John Faber Award for coverage of floods in Pakistan.

As freelancer, his work for the Times won the OPC's 2015 Feature Photography Award for coverage of the earthquake in Nepal, and the 2016 Olivier Rebbot Award for photos documenting the Philippine drug war. He also won Pulitzer Prizes in 2015 and 2017, among many other accolades.



Netflix has [released](#) a drama series based on reporting by OPC member **Eric Reidy**, who is migration editor for The New Humanitarian, titled The Swimmers. The show follows the dangerous journey of Yusra Mardini and her sister, Sarah, as they fled war-torn Syria to Germany in August 2015. In August

2019, Reidy met Sarah Mardini after she returned to Lesbos, Greece to help other refugees. By that time, her sister had competed as a swimmer in the 2016 Olympic Games. A few weeks later, Sarah was imprisoned along with many other migrants as European governments used anti-smuggling laws to crack down on humanitarian assistance. Reidy was one of the freelancers to receive an OPC micro-grant to weather COVID-19 hardships. His original story for The New Humanitarian [is here](#).



OPC member **Rod Nordland** [is launching](#) a non-profit literary journal aimed at working journalists, titled “Green Zone.” A call for submissions on the publication website says it aims at “encouraging and rewarding good writing, using literary and artistic techniques, by publishing online and in printed journals from time to time, poetry, short fiction, photography, and essays, by working journalists.” The best submissions will be published online, and “best of the best” collected into quarterly printed journals at a price that covers printing and shipping.



Two OPC members contributed to a BBC story from Western Sahara [on Nov. 24](#) about stalled vaccination efforts in the disputed region. **Jacob Kushner** wrote the story, which was supported by the Pulitzer Center, with photos by **Kang-Chun Cheng**. Kushner wrote that last year Morocco claimed to have the highest vaccination rate in Africa at 63 percent. This followed country’s recording more than 1.2 million cases of COVID-19, more than any other in Africa except for South Africa. However, Western Sahara is a “blank spot on the World Health Organization’s global map of COVID-19 cases and vaccines because Morocco refuses to publish data about how many Sahrawis have been vaccinated in this politically sensitive region.” Kushner received the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship in 2013 from the OPC Foundation.



PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Grant Wahl, a veteran sports journalist known for his soccer coverage, died [on Dec. 9](#) while in Qatar reporting on the World Cup. [On Dec. 14](#), his family announced following an autopsy that he died from an aneurysm. He was 49 years old. Wahl spoke at an OPC panel in September 2016 titled “Sports, Scandal and the Olympics,” in which he said he covered soccer because “it’s the global sport, and it has



the widest variety of stories of any sport that touch on all aspects of society, politics and culture, and basically every country in the world plays this sport.” Wahl was in the middle of his eighth World Cup assignment this year, which involves working long hours and a taxing broadcast schedule. Wahl started his journalism career in 1996 at Sports Illustrated, where he worked for more than 23 years and began to focus on soccer as the sport’s U.S. profile started to grow. He also worked for Fox Sports and CBS News. A clip of his remarks at the OPC panel [can be seen here](#).

People Column

New Resources

RESOURCES

The **A Culture of Safety (ACOS) Alliance** has published a 22-page summary of its annual meeting in October, with sections on trauma and psychological safety training, how to mobilize newsrooms against online abuse, provision of protective equipment for journalists, and more. [Download the report here](#).

The **International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF)** has a mental health guide for journalists facing online violence. The guide is aimed at helping journalists understand why abusers attack and how to protect their mental health, a self-evaluation chart to assess wellbeing in the face of threats, exercises and other resources. [Read more and download the guide here](#).

The **Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ)** has released its annual report, Attacks on the Press for 2022. The interactive report includes a heat map of journalists imprisoned around the world, with a total of 363 this year as of Dec. 1, a new global high that overtook the 2021 record by 20 percent. This year’s top five jailers of journalists are Iran, China, Myanmar, Turkey and Belarus. The report’s authors cited exploitation of COVID-19 restrictions and the economic fallout from Russia’s war on Ukraine as drivers of oppression. [Explore the report here](#).

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** and the **Border Center for Journalists and Bloggers** collaborated with **USAID-Mexico** to develop security recommendations and guidance for journalists working on the U.S.-Mexico border. [Read and download the guide here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted its Dec. 9 webinar on how newsrooms can produce more gender-equitable coverage. Presenters were Tessy Igomu of the PUNCH newspaper and Luba Kassova, a writer, researcher and audience strategist. [Watch the program here](#).

The **International Press Institute (IPI)** posted its Dec. 13 program on visual storytelling with innovative formats. The presenter was Natalia Guerrero, a senior journalist at BBC Reel, who talks about the role of video explainers and how to adopt different formats in visual storytelling, including tools for independent media and freelance journalists in digital video and short-form documentaries. [Watch the program here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Reporters Without Borders (widely known by its French acronym, RSF), is offering two spots for their **RSF Reporting Fellowships**. The application deadline is Dec. 20. Applications should be sent to research@reporter-ohne-grenzen.de or to rsf-research@protonmail.com. Two journalists from countries with restricted press freedom will be given the opportunity to work on a project of their choosing in Berlin. During their stay, the journalists will be able to participate in events and workshops to enhance their skills. After six months, the journalists will present their project to the public and return to their home country. The fellowship is scheduled from May to October 2023 (dates may differ due to COVID-19 regulations). [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Knight Science Journalism Fellowship Program at MIT is calling for applicants. The deadline to apply is Jan. 15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

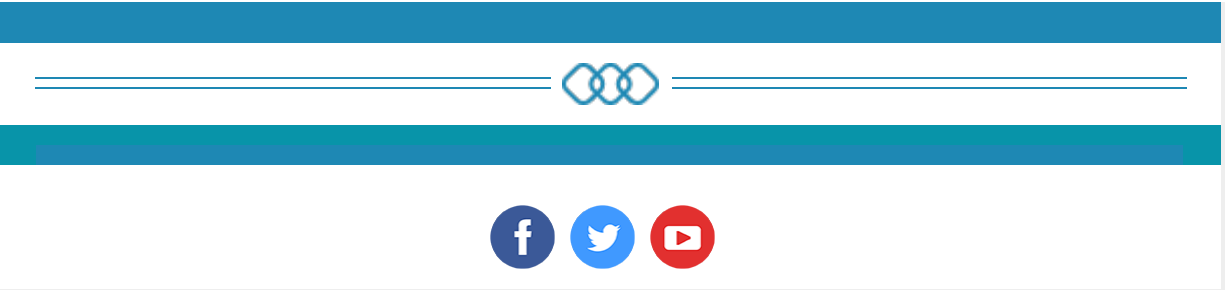
The New America National Fellows Program is calling for applications for “projects that advance ideas through research, reporting and analysis.” The deadline to apply is Feb. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

More Resources

- The **OPC** hosted a psychological safety and resilience training session with the **Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** on Oct. 12 that is available to watch on our YouTube channel. The program included a model to help understand the impact of trauma and other stresses in journalism, strategies for enhancing individual wellbeing and tips for building peer support networks. [Watch the program here.](#)
- The **Columbia University’s Brown Institute for Media Innovation** has 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.

Click the button below to go directly to the OPC's Resources page, 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.



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