



Overseas Press Club  
*of America*

## Bulletin Nov. 18, 2022

Dear Chad,

This issue of the Bulletin features a look at three new upcoming events: the next program in our "How I Did It" series is coming up on Nov. 30, this time with a New York Times team that tracked domestic surveillance in China; an in-person OPC Happy Hour at the Algonquin Hotel Bar on Dec. 7; and a panel with Afghan journalists who are adapting to life after the Taliban takeover last year. We also have new resources for journalists and updates on members of the OPC community in the People column, including a diplomatic appointment, accolades for investigative work, and more. Please note that the deadline for applications for the OPC Foundation's scholarship and fellowship awards is Dec. 1. Read more and [share this application link](#) with colleagues to help spread the word.

## Upcoming Events

**Nov. 30:**  
**'How I Did It': New York Times Reporters Reveal  
How They Tracked China's Expanding  
Surveillance State**

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

**Place:** Online via Zoom

New York Times reporters spent over a year combing through more than 100,000 government bidding documents and found that China's ambition to collect digital and biological data from its citizens is more expansive and invasive than previously known.

The visual Investigations team worked with reporters in Asia to analyze the documents and interview Chinese citizens targeted by government surveillance. In a two-part series published in June, they concluded: "Phone-tracking devices are now everywhere. The police are creating some of the largest DNA databases in the world. And the authorities are building upon facial recognition technology to collect voice prints from the general public. The vast surveillance data allows the state to target people whose behavior or characteristics are deemed suspicious by an algorithm, even if they've done nothing wrong."

Two NYT journalists will discuss their work on Wednesday, Nov. 30 as part of the OPC's "How I Did It Series," which offers members the opportunity to interact with highly successful journalists. **Muyi Xiao** is a reporter and producer on the visual investigations team, which combines traditional reporting with advanced digital forensics. **Paul Mozer** is a correspondent focused on technology and geopolitics in Asia.

OPC Past President **William J. Holstein** will moderate. Holstein has been following China since 1979 when he went to Hong Kong for United Press International. His third book on China, "Battlefield Cyber: How China and Russia Are Undermining Our Democracy and National Security," will be released in 2023.

Links to the series are below:

Part 1: [China's Surveillance State Is Growing. These Documents Reveal How.](#)

Part 2: ['An Invisible Cage': How China Is Policing the Future](#)

Registrants will receive link to join on Zoom about an hour before the program on Nov. 30.

RSVP Now



## Dec. 7: OPC Happy Hour at The Algonquin Hotel Bar

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
Eastern Time

**Place:** The Algonquin Hotel

Times Square, 59 W. 44th St.,  
New York, NY 10036

The Half King may be gone, but we're bringing back the OPC's social mixers! Our first will be at the hotel bar where the OPC was founded. Join us Wednesday December 7th at the Algonquin Hotel bar for food, drink and fun! Both members and non-members are welcome to attend! The event will be held from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. No RSVP is needed.



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## Dec. 13: How Afghan Journalists Are Reinventing Themselves

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. Eastern Time

**Place:** Online via Zoom.

More than a year after U.S. troops withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban returned to power, Afghan journalists are trying to navigate a "new" Afghanistan. Some are re-building careers in Afghanistan and others are setting up shops in the West, particularly in the U.S. and Canada.



The OPC supported 33 Afghan journalists who resettled in the U.S. with cash grants totaling \$133,000 earlier this year. On Dec. 13, the club will talk to a variety of Afghan journalists about the progress they have made and the challenges remaining. The rise of a vibrant, independent journalism community in Afghanistan was one of the few success stories in the two-decade U.S. occupation.

The moderator will be **Deborah Amos**, a governor of the OPC and a longtime reporter at National Public Radio covering the Middle East. "The community is in need of highlighting and support," Amos said. "The OPC did this with cash following the exodus last year. Now it's crucial, but harder, to help this community survive."

Speakers include:

- **Ali Latifi**, an Emmy-nominated freelance producer and writer working for major U.S. and International broadcasters and print outlets, including PBS, CNN and The New York Times.
- **Zahra Naderr**, founder of Zan Times, a media outlet that covers human rights in Afghanistan with a focus on women, the LGBT community and environmental issues.
- **Zaki Daryabi**, who founded Etilaat Roz Daily in 2012 and is publisher for KabulNow, an online newspaper affiliated with Etilaat.
- **Samiullah Mahdi**, a former Voice of America correspondent who co-founded Amu TV, a digital news platform that brings together journalists from within and outside Afghanistan to provide independent reporting in Farsi and Pashto.
- **Summia Tora**, Afghanistan's first Rhodes Scholar, a fellow at New America and member of an Afghan podcast team that created "No Way Home," a production for The Intercept.

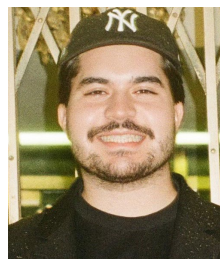
RSVP Now

Photo above by Daniel Young, U.S. Navy photographer.

## Welcome New Member

### Julian Rigg

Photo Editor at CNN  
and Freelance Photographer  
Allendale, NJ  
Active Resident, Young (29 and under)



## People by Chad Bouchard

### SCHOLARS

**Iqra Salah**, the Walter and Betsy Cronkite Scholarship winner for 2022, spoke to attendees at the Pulitzer Center's Washington Weekend event [on Oct. 27](#) about her project about statelessness in Zimbabwe and efforts to recognize undocumented people. Salah is a reporting fellow with the center, where she covers human rights stories. She said during a panel presentation that many



people are born in Zimbabwe with no identification due to a history of discrimination in granting citizenship by ancestry.

**Sophia Jones**, the Reuters Fellowship winner in 2012, is now with the Human Rights Watch Digital Investigations Lab, where she will be conducting open-source investigations into war crimes and human rights violations around the world. Jones has had an award-winning career covering mostly the Middle East and was the executive editor and an investigative journalist at Starling Lab, a research center at Stanford University and the University of Southern California, exploring issues of disinformation and data integrity. She is based in Barcelona. The OPC Foundation funded her internship in the Reuters bureau in Ramallah.



## AWARDS

MuckRock, a nonprofit journalism group where OPC Governor **Derek Kravitz** serves as investigations editor, has [received](#) the 2022 Community Champion Award from the Institute for Nonprofit News for the “Uncounted” COVID-19 project. The award was shared with reporting partner USA TODAY and the Documenting COVID-19 project that Kravitz founded. The investigation found that death certificates, long prone to error, had gotten worse during the pandemic and resulted in thousands of uncounted COVID-19 deaths. The project also won first place in the 2022 National Headliners Awards for online pandemic coverage or project and was shortlisted as one of the top data projects by the international competition Sigma Awards.



Italian director and OPC member **Benedetta Argentieri** received the Phoenix Award at the Cologne Film Festival for her documentary *The Matchmaker* on Oct. 27. She dedicated the award to the “brave people of North and East Syria.” The film follows Tooba Gondal, a native Londoner alleged to have recruited teenage girls to become the wives of ISIS fighters. News site Ajansa Nûçeyan a Firatê interviewed Argentieri about her film at the International Women's Conference [on Nov. 5](#) in Berlin. She said she dedicated her award to Syrians because the Ukraine war has crowded out coverage of other conflicts in the world and she hopes to draw attention to conflict in Syria as well as other violence, including recent chemical attacks by the Turkish government against Kurdistan Freedom Forces.



## UPDATES

OPC member and former CNN Beijing Bureau Chief **Jaime FlorCruz** has been [named](#) as the Philippines ambassador to China. FlorCruz retired from CNN in 2014. He covered key events in China including the 1989 Tiananmen massacre, the death of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, the 1997 Hong Kong handover, and the 2008 Olympics, among others. He was an





anti-Marcos activist who was exiled in China under the President's father and namesake, the dictator Ferdinand E. Marcos, in the 1970s. He was appointed on Oct. 17.

**Patricia Kranz**, executive director of the Overseas Press Club, and 29 other women who were on the University of Michigan's original six women's varsity sports teams were honored on Nov. 11 and 12 at a series of events in Ann Arbor. The programs recognized the impact of 50 years of Title IX on women's varsity athletics. Title IX is the most used name for the federal civil rights law that was enacted in 1972 and prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or education program that receives federal funding. Kranz played on the first varsity women's tennis team, winning a letter in 1974. The "Team One" athletes and hundreds of other letterwinners viewed their names on the new Letterwinners Wall in the Crisler Center that lists everyone who earned a varsity letter at the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus since 1866. A story about the first efforts to recognize Kranz and other Title IX athletes at the University of Michigan appeared in the December 2016 issue of the Bulletin, [which you can read here](#).



A documentary based on OPC Governor **Charles Graeber's** book, *The Good Nurse*, premiered on Netflix on Nov. 11. A dramatized version of the book became a Netflix feature film this September with actor Eddie Redmayne portraying serial killer and nurse Charles Cullen and Jessica Chastain as his colleague and whistleblower, Amy Loughren. Graeber is among the sources interviewed in the documentary, titled *The Killer Nurse*. Graeber shared his thoughts about how the high rotation of hospital staffing set the stage for Cullen's abuses. "People come and go and being transient is somewhat expected. The institution of private, for-profit health care, the business of health care, is one that Charlie Cullen was perfectly suited for. You become invisible. And he was, to many, a man without a face." Graeber also spoke to Newsweek for a story [on Nov. 3](#) that focused on Cullen's claims that he was a "mercy killer" ending the suffering of patients, but "the murders had everything to do with what he needed at that moment and what worked for him, and absolutely nothing to do with those people," Graeber was quoted as saying in the piece.



OPC member **Amanda Florian** wrote a piece for Foreign Policy magazine [on Nov. 7](#) about how public health policies are using anti-foreign language and stirring xenophobia. She wrote that the head epidemiologist at the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Zunyou Wu, announced in September that citizens should avoid contact with foreigners to stop the spread of monkeypox. Florian said amid the country's zero-COVID policies, disease stigma and mistrust have become commonplace over the last two years.



**Mary Kay Magistad**, a veteran public radio correspondent and OPC member who now works with the Asia Society, traveled to Greenland in September to report on climate issues for a CBS News piece that aired [on Nov. 3](#). She reported that temperatures are rising four times faster than the global average, threatening ice sheets that stabilize global temperatures. This year marked the warmest September on record in Greenland, Magistad said.



OPC member **Kathy Gannon** spoke on stage at the Shorenstein Center [on Nov. 15](#) during a program about the role of media in democracy. Gannon is serving as a Joan Shorenstein Fellow at the center this fall session. Brian Stelter, who covered media for CNN, also participated in the discussion. Gannon is an international correspondent and bureau chief with 30 years of experience, and was news director for Pakistan and Afghanistan for The Associated Press until May this year. She said that she bristles at the notion that journalists are responsible for preserving democracy. “It’s not my job. My job is to inform,” Gannon said. “My job is not about going out there with the intention of holding the powerful to account. If I’m going out for a specific purpose or bandwagon, you actually undermine democracy by the very fact of losing your independence to promote a system of government.”



A story for NPR’s Goats and Soda blog written by **Ruchi Kumar**, an OPC member and freelance journalist, got a surprising postscript on Nov. 1 from an editor who worked on the piece. Pierre Kattar served as visuals editor for Kumar’s article, which focused on 16-year-old girl Marzia Mohammadi, one of 53 people, mainly girls, killed in a suicide bombing attack on Sept. 30 in Kabul. Kumar’s story [last month](#) used excerpts of Mohammadi’s diary, provided to NPR by her uncle, to explore her goals and dreams. Kattar wrote that soon after working on Kumar’s story he attended a protest in Rome where he is based, and ran into Mohammadi’s teacher, who was holding a poster displaying a photo of Mohammadi and her friend. The teacher, Hamidullah Hussaini, said he had taught the two girls math for seven years. Hussaini himself had narrowly escaped the Taliban later in October when members showed up at his school and questioned him about a lecture they had seen in which he told students the economy had worsened since the Taliban banned women from getting an education or working. He fled Kabul the next day and ended up in Rome. “My main dream is that one day the Taliban will be removed from Afghanistan, and I’ll go back and teach the young women in my school,” Mohammadi said.



People Column

## Press Freedom

OPC member **Amberin Zaman**, the UK-based senior correspondent for the Al-Monitor news website, has [faced](#) a wave of online harassment and death threats by Turkish public figures and others. The Association of European Journalists said in an alert on its website that Turkish pro-government newspapers and other influential media have "spread malicious misinformation, falsely calling her a supporter of terrorism, inciting popular hostility. The widespread dissemination of death threats and explicit warnings of rape and sexual violence, accompanied by lurid and unfounded attacks on her reputation, raise acute fears for the journalist's personal safety."

## New Resources

### RESOURCES

**The International Journalists Network (IJNet)** has released a new toolkit focused on environmental reporting. The resource package includes podcast episodes and written articles to support journalists covering climate crises and related issues [Find the toolkit here](#).

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)**, with support from UNESCO, has published a book-length global study on online violence against women journalists, documenting trends and offering solutions to the problem. Among the researchers' findings was a key gap in law: the exclusion of sex and gender from anti-hate speech legislation. The 300-page book is the result of a three-year research project originally commissioned by UNESCO in 2019. [Read more and download the report here](#).

### TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

**The New York Times** is offering a limited number of free spots for freelance journalists to participate in their upcoming in-house safety training course in Brooklyn from Dec. 13 to 16. The four-day ART (Adversarial Reporting Training, traditionally referred as HEFAT) course is designed to help journalists "more safely pursue aggressive, adversarial reporting and operate in higher-risk environments. It is taught in a seminar-style with medical and surveillance exercises to build skill-sets and confidence." The deadline to apply is Nov. 23. [Read more and apply here](#).

On Nov. 7, the **Foreign Correspondents Club, Hong Kong (FCCHK)** will host an online program with author Kerry Brown to discuss his book *Xi: A Study in Power*, and the future of Xi Jinping's leadership of China. [Read more and register here](#).

**The Dart Center for Journalism and Trauma** has been exploring issues surrounding journalists' coverage of children in a series of webinars, most recently with a session about in October how to cover climate crises through children's eyes, the fourth program in the series. [Watch the program here](#). Find the other three parts as well as other programs on the [Dart Center YouTube](#)



[channel page here.](#)

## GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The **Overseas Press Club Foundation** is calling for applications for this year's scholarship and fellowship awards. Any graduate or undergraduate students studying at American colleges and universities who aspire to become foreign correspondents are eligible. In a typical year, the Foundation awards 17 scholarships/fellowships. The Foundation pays travel and living expenses for the fellowship winners to spend time in the foreign bureaus of such leading news organization as the Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg, GroundTruth Project, Wall Street Journal and Forbes and at foreign English-language media companies such as the South China Morning Post. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the number of fellowships available at news organizations may be fewer this year or the fellowship may be virtual. Students can still win a \$3,000-\$4,000 grant to pursue academic goals or funding their own overseas assignments. The deadline to apply is Dec. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

## More Resources

- 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](mailto:chad@opcofamerica.org) for credentials.**

OPC Resources Page



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