

### Overseas Press Club of America

## Bulletin Dec. 1, 2023

We hope you enjoy this edition of the Bulletin. This month, we open the OPC Awards submission season with a Call for Entries and a look at changes to the list of awards categories. Find recaps and videos of three OPC events, including the book night on Nov. 14 with Dean Yates and his wife Mary Binks to discuss *A Line in the Sand;* a panel on Nov. 2 with journalists covering environmental issues on how to engage audiences on climate change; and a book night on Oct. 19 with Jane Ferguson to discuss *No Ordinary Assignment*. Read an OPC statement condemning violence and threats against journalists covering the Israel-Hamas war, and a <u>report</u> on the meeting of eight press clubs in Santago de Compostela in the Galicia region of Spain on Nov. 9 and 10. We also have updates on OPC community members in the People column, and new resources, programs and opportunities to explore.





Applications are now 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 help us spread the word about this call for entries on your social and professional networks.

Scroll down to read more about changes to award categories this year.

Submit Entries

# OPC Renames Feature Photography and Interpretation of International Affairs Awards To Honor Danish Siddiqui and William Worthy; Adds New Category for Continuing Coverage of Conflict

The OPC board of governors has approved several changes to its prestigious, 84-year-old awards, expanding the universe of journalists it honors when it places their names on awards for coverage of international news and adding a new category to recognize continuous coverage of conflicts around the world.

• The OPC has named its award for feature photography on an international theme for **Danish Siddiqui**, a Pulitzer-Prize-winning journalist acclaimed as one of the finest photojournalists of his generation for his work from India, Afghanistan and Bangladesh. Siddiqui was killed by the Taliban in July 2021 while covering the group's reconquest of Afghanistan.

In addition, the OPC has renamed the Bob Considine Award for best newspaper, news service or digital interpretation of international affairs for <u>William Worthy Jr.</u>, an African-American foreign correspondent for Baltimore Afro-American and CBS News "who in the thick of the Cold War ventured where the United States did not want him to go – including the Soviet Union, China, Cuba," and who helped transform the role of modern foreign correspondence.

- The OPC also has established a new category, **The Continuing Coverage of Conflict Award**. This award will honor journalism that sustains focus on underreported conflicts and global crises, especially in cases where the headlines move elsewhere.
- Lastly, the OPC voted to combine the Malcolm Forbes Award and The Morton Frank Award into one award – The Malcolm Forbes and Morton Frank Award – honoring best international business news reporting in any medium.

Read More

# OPC Condemns Violence and Threats Against Journalists Covering the Israel-Hamas War

The OPC expresses its shock and outrage at the deaths of journalists covering the Israel-Hamas War.

As of Nov. 30, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) – which is investigating reports of journalists and media workers killed, injured or missing in the war – reports that at least 57 journalists and media workers have been killed since the war began Oct. 7, including 50 Palestinian, 4 Israeli, and 3 Lebanese. This led to the deadliest month for journalists since CPJ began keeping such data in 1992.

Journalists doing their job reporting on the war not only face violence, detention, threats and intimidation, they also face disrupted communications and supply shortages. They deserve our respect and support. We urge all authorities and governments involved to take steps to protect journalists and allow them reasonable access and freedom to cover the war. We condemn any attempts to harass them or stop them from reporting, broadcasting or transmitting their reportage, and attempts to disrupt them from interviewing people on the ground.

The OPC also condemns the rise in hateful attacks on journalists – with particular targets being Israeli, Palestinian, Muslim and Jewish journalists – both online and in person, especially threats against them, since the start of the Israel-Hamas War. Authorities and online platforms should seriously investigate

such hate speech and threats, and ensure all journalists are protected.

Journalism is not a crime. The OPC stands up for journalists covering the war in Gaza and reporting and analyzing it anywhere in the world to be free to do their jobs without fear of retribution, threats or violence.

OPC Press Freedom Committee (Updated on Nov. 30, 2023)

Read and Share from the OPC Website

# European Press Club Federation Holds Meeting in Santiago de Compostela

#### by Patricia Kranz

Representatives from eight press clubs met in Santago de Compostela in the Galicia region of Spain for the annual conference of the European Press Club Federation on Nov. 9 and 10. The OPC is a longtime member of the federation.

As executive director of the OPC, I exchanged information with officials from press clubs in Berlin, Brussels, Catalunya, Geneva, London, Malta, and of course, Galicia. Galicia International Press Center was created in 2022 and soon after joined the federation.

During the meeting, each press club presented an update of their activities during the past year. I was



proud to recount the OPC's many accomplishments: \$36,200 in emergency grants to Ukrainian journalists; psychological safety training programs for freelance journalists, women and non-binary journalists; the launching of the How I Did It and In the Thick of It program series; book nights and screenings; and the club's efforts to diversify its membership and board.

The Institute of Maltese Journalists attended as a prospective member. Federation members supported the potential application as a way to show solidarity with journalists in Malta. In 2017, Daphne Caruana Galizia, an investigative reporter in Malta, was killed by a car bomb. Her work targeted many powerful figures, including money-laundering banks, Mafia-linked gambling companies and politicians allegedly receiving covert payments, The Guardian reported. She ran her own website and her work was part of the Panama Papers project of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists.

The photo above was taken on the roof of the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia. For centuries, pilgrims have made their way to the site via a network of routes known as the Camino de Santiago, or Way of St. James, which leads to the shrine of the apostle James in a crypt beneath the main altar of the cathedral.

Read on the OPC Website

Photo above, left to right: Matthew Xuereb, Institute of Maltese Journalists; Luis Menendez, Galicia International Press Center; Isabelle Falconnier, Geneva Press Club; Patricia Kranz, OPC; Martyn Bond, London Press Club; Camila Riquelme-Brevis, Galicia International Press Center; Juliane Hielscher, Berlin Press Club; Monica Viñas, Catalunya Press Club.

# Former Correspondent Discusses Memoir and Battle with PTSD

#### by Chad Bouchard

After years of reporting on some of the world's worst violence and disasters, it took former Reuters journalist Dean Yates a long time to fully realize the toll these experiences had taken on his mental health.



"I was unwell for many years. I had a lot of the classic symptoms of PTSD. The emotional numbness, the flashbacks. I was suffering, my family was suffering, but I was in denial about that," he said.

On Nov. 14, Yates and his wife Mary Binks, speaking together publicly for the first time for the OPC, discussed their experience grappling with his post-traumatic stress disorder and his 7-year recovery process, which Yates recounts in his memoir, Line in the Sand. Clothilde Redfern, director of the Rory Peck Trust, moderated the discussion.

Read the Full Recap

# Journalists Share Techniques to Engage Audiences on Climate Change

#### by Chad Bouchard

Veteran climate reporters at an OPC panel on Nov. 2 shared key techniques for avoiding "climate fatigue" among readers and audiences. This year's climate news has included wildfires in Maui, recordbreaking heatwaves,



historically low ice coverage in the Antarctic, and wildfire smoke from Canada that choked states across the eastern U.S.

Panelists told the online audience that good writing, humor, and angles scaled to the local level and focused on human narratives help readers engage with the reporting.

Peter Prengaman, news director of The Associated Press' climate and environmental team, said highlighting solutions helps prevent readers from feeling overwhelmed.

"Solutions journalism has been around for a long time, climate solutions have been around for a long time, but I think we see in our readers much more interest in stories that get at how some of this can be abated."

The other panelists were Kendra Pierre-Louis, climate reporter with Bloomberg, Steve Sapienza, senior editor at the Pulitzer Center, and Juliet Eilperin, deputy climate and environment editor at The Washington Post.

Zachary Goldfarb, climate and environment editor at The Washington Post, moderated the panel.

Read the Full Recap

Photo above, clockwise from upper left: Steve Sapienza, Zachary Goldfarb, Peter Prengaman, Kendra Pierre-Louis and Juliet Eilperin.

# Jane Ferguson Discusses Success and Struggle in Her Career as War

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### Correspondent

#### by Chad Bouchard

Award-winning international correspondent Jane Ferguson has covered some of the world's most violent conflict zones over the last decade and a half, from the Middle East and Arab world to East Africa and South



Asia, reporting for CNN, PBS Newshour, AI Jazeera English and The New Yorker. But as a professor of journalism at Princeton, she started to notice reverence among students and wanted to demystify her work.

"I could see in their faces that they thought I had it all figured out, that it had been this great smooth ascent, and 'look at her career, she must be special. She must have some sort of magical quality," she said. Ferguson thought of those students when she set out to write her recently published memoir, No Ordinary Assignment, which depicts an honest picture of mistakes and shortcomings in her career and realities of conflict reporting, as well as her successes.

"I wanted them to see that I had faced a lot of rejection, I had made a fool of myself at times, I had almost gotten myself killed."

On Oct. 19, Ferguson joined an OPC program to discuss the book, with Elizabeth Becker, an award-winning correspondent and author whose career spans four decades, including coverage of Cambodia during the Vietnam War.

**Read More** 

Photo above: Elizabeth Becker, left, and Jane Ferguson.

### **Welcome New Members**

Anisha Dutta

Columbia Journalism School New York Student Weiyang Le Columbia Journalism School New York Student



#### Samaa Khullar

Toni Stabile Investigative Fellow

#### Aaron Weintraub Freelance Documentary and

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Columbia Journalism School New York Student



Video Journalist Erbil, Iraq Active Overseas, Young (29 or under)



### People by Chad Bouchard

#### SCHOLARS

**Youcef Bounab**, the 2023 winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone, is now the Englishlanguage Maghreb correspondent for Agence France-Presse in Tunis. He had an OPC Foundation fellowship with The Associated Press in Paris.

**Humza Jilani**, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2022, has joined the Financial Times. He will spend his first six months covering international economic news from London and then head to Pakistan to be FT's next Islamabad correspondent. Humza had an OPC Foundation with Reuters in London.

**Hayley Woodin Hastings**, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2022, <u>has taken on</u> an elevated leadership role in business journalism at BIV and within Glacier Media. She will be responsible for leadership of BIV events, strategic initiatives, partnership development and digital expansion. In her new role, Woodin Hastings also has editorial oversight of The Orca and Western Investor.

**Brett Simpson**, the Irene Corbally Kuhn Scholarship winner in 2021, is one of two journalists named for the <u>Institute for</u> <u>Current World Affairs</u> 2024-2026 fellowship. Starting next summer, she will be based in Tromsø, Norway, documenting Arctic climate changes and shifting geopolitics in an era of rising temperatures and tension. After Russia invaded Ukraine, the Arctic Council was suspended and all circum-Arctic data sharing on climate projects abruptly stopped. Ever

since, for the first time in the era of climate change, the Arctic has been split effectively in half. Here is a story she reported for <u>Foreign Policy</u>.









**Sarah Champagne**, the 2019 winner of the S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting, won the Grand Prix Judith-Jasmin, one of the most prestigious journalism awards in Quebec, for her work on temporary immigrants. The prize honored both the work she did for the documentary, *Essentials*, as well as a series of articles that appeared in Le Devoir on the same subject entitled The Great Shift in Immigration.

**Scott Squires**, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2018 and a reporter covering money and markets in Argentina from the Bloomberg bureau in Buenos Aires, will be moving to Bloomberg-Mexico City in 2024 to cover Mexico's energy sector, Pemex, oil and Mexico's renewable energy transition. Squires had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Buenos Aires.

**Amelia Nierenberg** the 2018 Flora Lewis Fellowship winner, reported from the Lewiston, Maine area for The New York Times during last month's mass shooting that killed 18 people and wounded 13 others at a bowling alley and a bar. Nierenberg filed many reports from the shooting sites in Lewiston as well as from nearby Bowdoin, where the shooter Robert Card was from, and from Lisbon Falls, where his vehicle was found and later where his body was discovered after a 48-hour manhunt.

**Kim Chakanetsa**, the Stan Swinton Scholarship winner in 2011, is host of The Conversation at BBC World Service. She and her team recently won a third Clarion award in the radio/interview program category. Clarion Awards are presented by the Association for Women in Communications (AWC), an organization that promotes the advancement of women across all communications disciplines. Chakanetsa had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the AP bureau in Johannesburg.

Jeff Horvitz, the Fred Weigold winner in 2009 and now a tech reporter for The Wall Street Journal, has a new book entitled <u>Broken Code: Inside Facebook and the Fight to</u> <u>Expose Its Harmful Secrets</u>, billed as a behind-the-scenes look at the manipulative tactics Facebook used to grow its business, how it distorted the way people connect online, and the company insiders who found the courage to speak out. Broken Code tells the story of these employees and their

explosive discoveries. Expanding on "The Facebook Files," his award-winning series for the Journal, Horwitz details the architecture of Facebook's failures and what the company knew and often disregarded about its societal impact.











Columbia Journalism School <u>named</u> two FRONTLINE documentaries — 20 Days in Mariupol and Afghanistan Undercover — as 2024 Alfred I. duPont-Columbia University Award finalists. FRONTLINE's editor-in-chief and executive producer is OPC Governor **Raney Aronson-Rath**. 20 Days in Mariupol, made in partnership with The Associated Press and produced and edited by Michelle Mizner with Aronson-Rath also serving as producer, covers the beginning of the war in

Ukraine from the perspective of Ukrainian filmmaker and AP video journalist Mstyslav Chernov. Chernov was part of the AP team that won the OPC's Hal Boyle Award this year. *Afghanistan Undercover*, produced by a team including award-winning correspondent Ramita Navai and director and producer Karim Shah, investigates the Taliban's crackdown on women in Afghanistan since August 2021. Both films have won several awards this year. *Afghanistan Undercover* won this year's David A. Andelman and Pamela Title Award. On <u>Nov. 14</u>, Aronson-Rath spoke at the Columbia Journalism School after a screening of *20 Days in Mariupol*, along with Michelle Mizner, producer and editor of FRONTLINE, Polina Buchak, an award-winning New York-based Ukrainian filmmaker, and June Cross, professor and director of the Documentary Journalism Program at the Columbia Journalism School.

OPC member **Dana Thomas** <u>won a Signal Award</u> in October in the category of "Best Host – Current Events" for her podcast, The Green Dream. The podcast, which covers sustainability and climate change, shared a Silver Award in that category with Jon Stewart, who won as host of his podcast, The Problem with Jon Stewat, and Reid Hoffman, for Masters of Scale: Brand While You Build. All three shared the top honor for the category – there was no Gold Award winner.

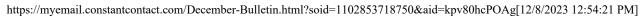
For the Listener's Choice Award, The Green Dream came in second after Jon Stewart, receiving a second Silver Award. This year, the Signal Awards received nearly 2000 entries and during the public voting stage more than 130,000 votes were cast for the Signal Listener's Choice award. The awards were celebrated at an Oct. 23 reception at The Bowery NYC.

2020 Edward R. Murrow Award winner **Ahmer Khan** received the Martin Adler Prize for 2023 from the Rory Peck Trust during a ceremony <u>on Nov. 16</u>. The award judges said Khan's journalism "sheds light on some of the toughest and most heated issues in India, while his writing shows impact and sensitivity." Tweeting about the award, he said "I would like to dedicate this win to the brave journalists working in #Gaza who, in the line of duty, sacrificed their lives for journalism." Khan and his VICE team won the 2020 Murrow Award for

their documentary India Burning, about Muslim Indians at risk of losing their citizenship.

#### UPDATES

A documentary produced by OPC members









and recipients of the OPC's COVID-19 grants premiered at DOC NYC on Nov. 12. Mediha follows the life of a teenage Yazidi girl who has recently returned from ISIS captivity. The director, **Hasan Oswald**, and one of the producers, OPC member **Fahrinisa Campana**, received OPC grants in 2020 to help freelancers during the pandemic. OPC members **Annelise Mecca** and **Alexander Spiess** were also producers, along with Stephen Nemeth. Oswald was also a producer on the film. In November Oscarwinner Emma Thompson joined the production as an executive producer. The film is currently wending its way around film festivals.



OPC member **Nicole Tung**, an award-winning photojournalist for The New York Times who has covered conflicts around the world, talked to WNYC's "1A Podcast" for their "Ask a War Photojournalist" series <u>on Nov. 13</u>. Tung joined photojournalists Lynsey Addario and Peter van Agtmael on the program. She talked about her experience working while embedded with military in Ukraine, Syria and Iraq, and answered other questions sent by listeners.

**Joseph Cox**, an OPC member who formerly worked for VICE's tech publication Motherboard, spoke to business magazine Fast Company <u>on Nov. 19</u> for a piece about worker-owned publications such as the 404 Media company he and a circle of colleagues launched this summer. He said he reached a breaking point when he realized he couldn't access the U.S. court system's subscription database because VICE had fallen behind on bills, and then saw through public bankruptcy records that executives had received large bonuses. "That was the crystallizing moment for me," Cox was quoted as saying. "I was astounded and angry and rather than tweeting any more about it, I pivoted that emotion into creating a new media company."

OPC member **Ruchi Kumar** on Nov. 18 wrote a piece for The Telegraph covering Afghan refugees who were forced to bribe police to avoid deportation from Pakistan. She followed the story of one refugee, Shahid, whose rental home in Islamabad was raided by police just 24 hours after the government ordered 1.3 million Afghan refugees to leave the country by Oct. 31. Shahid delayed deportation temporarily by agreeing to pay a bribe of 10,000 Pakistani Rupees, about \$35, Kumar wrote.







miles west of Rome. She said the lion, named Kimba, roamed the seaside town of Ladispoli for about 5 hours before he was shot with a tranquilizer dart, captured and returned to the circus. The town's mayor, Alessandro Grando, joined animal

rights activists in calling for "an end to the exploitation of animals in circuses."

On a radio segment for WAMC Northeast Public Radio on Nov. 3, OPC member **Amanda Sperber** said she is encouraging her students to "rethink foreign correspondence," which can be achieved by including more diversity in the newsroom and challenging long-established patterns of reporting that tend to frame global events through a Western lens. Sperber is serving this fall as the James H. Ottaway, Sr. visiting professor of journalism at the State University of New

York (SUNY) New Paltz. She said she urges students to examine "journalism that challenges expectations and challenges the discourse of the powerful."

OPC member **Stephen Schlesinger** spoke to PassBlue, a U.N.-focused news site, with Canada's Ambassador Bob Rae in early September to talk about the 20th anniversary of his Schlesinger's book, *Act of Creation: The Founding of the United Nations*. A recording of the conversation was posted on Nov. 4. The two discussed how the U.N. was formed at the San Francisco conference in 1945, and what it means today. Rae asked Schlesinger, a fellow at the Century Foundation, how the U.N. can still play a constructive role in limiting abuses of power and consequences of conflict such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Schlesinger said he wished U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres had been more proactive before the Russian invasion. "I can't always figure out why a Secretary General acts as they do, but the most important thing is that they act."

**Monica Montero**, an OPC member who reports on migration, filed an article <u>on Nov. 15</u> for Al Jazeera from Calais, France and England about the Rwanda Asylum Plan, with support from the Pulitzer Center. Montero is a post-graduate reporting fellow with the Pulitzer Center.

**Edith Lederer**, an OPC member and veteran Associated Press journalist covering the United Nations, interviewed Latvian President Edgars Rinkēvičs <u>on Nov. 9</u>, asking about the country's position as neighbor and ally to Ukraine. Rinkēvičs said Russia is planning for a long war and appealed to countries to continue supplying arms to the Ukrainian military. "If we stop Russia in Ukraine, then Russia is not going to be able to challenge other countries," he told Lederer. She

Certe Contraction

has also been reporting extensively on the Israel-Hamas war from New York, including a piece about the U.N. Security Council's many attempts to agree on a







resolution on Nov. 14.

People Column

### **New Resources**

#### RESOURCES

The **Rory Peck Trust** has a Risk and Safety Helpdesk that offers free expert one-to-one advice on anything safety related, from risk assessments to insurance queries to digital security advice. The topics covered include protecting sources on the ground, personal protective equipment, digital security, insurance, and how to find a safe place in a dangerous area. <u>Read</u> <u>more here</u>.

**The Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN)** has published a list of its top 10 investigative tools for 2023. Exapmples include a <u>spacebar trick</u> to find potential whistleblowers on LinkedIn, a journalist-built tool called <u>Telepathy</u> for investigations on Telegram, affordable GPS devices to track waste routes, and Aleph, the OCCRP's follow-the-money data platform and leaks repository. <u>Read the full list of tools here</u>.

The **International Journalists' Network (IJNet) has** published a list of tips for reporting on anti-democratic extremism around the world. The article includes insights from Meg Kelly, a video reporter on the Washington Post's video forensics team, and Ryan Reilly, a justice reporter at NBC News, who both reported on the events of January 6 in the U.S. and their aftermath. <u>Read more here</u>.

#### TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

Registration is still open for a course on "Generative AI for Journalists" from the **Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas** in partnership with **Hacks/Hackers**. This four-week course, currently underway through Dec. 17, teaches hands-on skills like how to make your data machine-readable, plug your data into generative AI models, and share new AI tools with others. <u>Read more and register here</u>.

In addition, the **Knight Center** provides other free and low-cost journalism courses online; hosts the annual International Symposium on Online Journalism; publishes the LatAm Journalism Review, a trilingual digital magazine covering issues related to journalism and press freedom in Latin America and the Caribbean; conducts research about journalism throughout the region; and much more.

Northwestern University is hosting a new week-long writing program from July 10 to 17, 2024, specifically for journalists who are interested in writing their first

novel. The inaugural **George R.R. Martin Summer Intensive Writing Workshop** at the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, will be taught by award-winning novelists and writing instructors and support up to 10 mid-career journalists as they seek to publish their first novel or book-length work of fictional prose. The workshop will take place in Evanston, Illinois. <u>Read more and apply here</u>.

The **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** has launched a training program, titled Newsroom Safety Across America, the organization's "U.S.-focused part of its global safety programming in what will be a year of high-stakes elections." Trainings will include one- or two-day workshops focused on risk assessment, personal security, legal protection, mental health care, and more. <u>Read more here</u>.

#### **GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Internews' **Earth Journalism Network (EJN)** is offering reporting grants to support the production of stories by journalists in selected Asia Pacific countries that raise awareness of the interlinkages between human, animal and ecosystem health. About 12 story grants with an average budget of \$2,000 each will be offered. Grantees will be paired with an editorial mentor and receive guidance from a One Health thematic expert. The deadline to apply is Dec. 7. Read more and submit story ideas here.

The **International Women's Media Foundation (IWMF)** is calling for applications for its Kim Wall Memorial Fund, which will provide \$5,000 grants to women or non-binary reporters covering "subculture, broadly defined, and what Kim liked to call 'the undercurrents of rebellion.'" The deadline to apply is Dec. 17. <u>Read more and apply here</u>.

The **Media School at Bournemouth University** is accepting entries for its New Media Writing Prize (NMWP) for students, bloggers, artists and writers. The prize will recognize innovative and interactive storytelling (fiction or nonfiction) written specifically for delivery and reading/viewing on a PC or Mac, the web or a hand-held device such as an iPad or mobile phone. <u>Read more and apply here</u>. The deadline to apply is Feb 1.

**The Artdocfest** is accepting applications for the Artdocfest/Riga IFF Pitch Session, which will take place in March 2024, in Riga. Ten documentary projects will be selected. The application deadline is Jan. 15. <u>Read more and apply here</u>.

#### **More Resources**

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 <u>chad@opcofamerica.org</u> for credentials.

OPC Resources



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