



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Nov. 21, 2024



Hello Chad,

We hope you enjoy this November edition of the Bulletin. Read a recap of an OPC panel on A.I. tools for journalists [on Oct. 16](#) with links to many helpful resources, read previews of upcoming programs including a panel about the U.S. election at the American Library in Paris (and online) [on Dec. 3](#) and a book night with Edward Wong [on Dec. 10](#) to discuss *At the Edge of Empire*.

As always, read OPC member news in the People Column, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.

Please note that submissions for the OPC Annual Awards will open on Dec. 2. We will send a Call for Entries email to members with the link to the submission page when it is live.

Newsroom AI Experts Present Tools and Best Practices for International Journalists

by Chad Bouchard

New artificial intelligence tools are poised to transform newsrooms and amplify their reporting power, and are essential weapons against bad actors waging disinformation campaigns that exploit A.I. tools of their own.

On Oct. 16, the OPC hosted a virtual panel discussion with experts using A.I. within their newsrooms.

Phoebe Connelly, senior editor, A.I. Strategy and Innovation at The Washington Post, moderated. She asked panelists about their approaches for navigating ethical issues and how they direct journalists to use their tools.

Rubina Madan Fillion, associate editorial director of A.I. Initiatives at The New

York Times, said in a recent project, before journalists were given access to generative A.I. tools, they received training on standards and guard rails for how to use the technology.

“The most important one is that everything is done with human guidance and review. We don’t use A.I. to write articles,” she said. “Journalists are ultimately responsible for everything that we publish, and we want to make that really clear, to our audience but also to our journalists who are getting access to these tools. And we are also very interested in transparency.”

Other panelists were Aimee Rinehart, senior product manager A.I. strategy for The Associated Press, and Elyse Samuels, senior producer on The Washington Post’s Visual Forensics team.

Click the button below for the full recap, which includes many links to tools, resources and recommendations for learning more about A.I. in news operations.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

Upcoming Events

Dec. 3: American Library in Paris – How Did Trump Win?

Time: 7:30 p.m. in Paris, 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online and at the American Library in Paris, 10, rue du Général Camou

Fresh from the campaign trail, four journalists unpack Trump’s victory. How did the Democrats lose so badly? What does this imply about America and what does it

mean for the country’s future? What are the ramifications for the rest of the world? And how did pundits, media analysts, and pollsters make such incorrect assumptions about the political mood in the U.S. ? Join us to ask questions and discuss the year’s seismic events in the U.S.



This event is hosted by the American Library in Paris in partnership with the OPC.

About the Panelists:

Richard Fausset, The New York Times. Based in Atlanta, Fausset writes about

conservative politics, and covered Trump's campaign. He has focused on the politics of the South, gun ownership, race, and poverty.

Vivian Salama, The Wall Street Journal. (Joining on Zoom from Washington.) Salama has been on the campaign trail all year, and covered Trump's first term. She has reported from about 85 countries, including as AP's Baghdad bureau chief, and been based in the UAE, Pakistan, Egypt, and Israel/Palestine. She is also an attorney and member of the District of Columbia bar.

Sylvie Kaufmann, Le Monde. Columnist for Le Monde and the paper's former editorial director, Kaufmann was previously a longtime foreign correspondent, with postings in the U.S., London, Moscow, and Singapore.

Ben Barnier, France Info TV. Senior correspondent for France Televisions news channel, Barnier co-anchored a nightly program on air during the campaign's final weeks, and covered the Trump campaign. Barnier previously worked for ABC News, and is a graduate of Columbia University School of Journalism.

Moderator: **Vivienne Walt**, Paris Correspondent for TIME & FORTUNE magazines. Walt has reported from dozens of countries across Europe, Africa and the Middle East, for TIME and FORTUNE magazines. Her work has also appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, National Geographic, and other publications. She is a governor of the Overseas Press Club of America, the U.S.'s oldest organization for foreign correspondents.

RSVP Now



Dec. 10: Book Night: 'At the Edge of Empire: A Family's Reckoning with China' by Edward Wong

Time: 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time

Place: Online via Zoom

Join a book night, cosponsored by the OPC and the Asian American Journalists Association, to discuss *At the Edge of Empire* – an epic story of modern China that weaves a family memoir with vital reporting by the New York Times diplomatic correspondent.



The son of Chinese immigrants in Washington, DC, **Edward Wong** grew up among family secrets. His father toiled in Chinese restaurants and rarely spoke of his native land or his years in the People's Liberation Army under Mao. Yook Kearn Wong came of age during the Japanese occupation in World War II and

the Communist revolution, when he fell under the spell of Mao's promise of a powerful China. His astonishing journey as a soldier took him from Manchuria during the Korean War to Xinjiang on the Central Asian frontier. In 1962, disillusioned with the Communist Party, he made plans for a desperate escape to Hong Kong.

When Wong became the Beijing bureau chief for The New York Times, he investigated his father's mysterious past while assessing for himself the dream of a resurgent China. He met the citizens driving the nation's astounding economic boom and global expansion – and grappling with the vortex of nationalistic rule under Xi Jinping, the most powerful leader since Mao. Following in his father's footsteps, he witnessed ethnic struggles in Xinjiang and Tibet and pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. And he had an insider's view of the world's two superpowers meeting at a perilous crossroads.

Wong, who was the OPC Foundation's David R. Schweisberg Scholarship winner in 1998, tells a moving chronicle of a family and a nation that spans decades of momentous change and gives profound insight into a new authoritarian age transforming the world.

Tracy Jan, a deputy health and science editor at The Washington Post, will talk with Wong about his book.

[Buy the book here.](#)

RSVP Now



April 17: OPC Annual Awards Dinner



ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

Network with Leading Global Journalists

April 17, 2025 | Cipriani, 25 Broadway, New York City
Main reception **6pm** | Dinner and program **7pm** | VIP reception **5:30pm**

Date: April 17, 2025

Place: Cipriani, 25 Broadway in New York City.

The Overseas Press Club is excited to announce that its 86th anniversary awards dinner will take place on April 17th at Cipriani, 25 Broadway in New York City.

Individual tickets will go on sale in January.

For more information, contact OPC Executive Director Patricia Kranz at patricia@opcofamerica.org.

OPC Condemns Saudi Arabia's Jailing of Cartoonist for Political Speech

The OPC released the following statement on Oct. 28:

The Overseas Press Club of America strongly condemns the government of Saudi Arabia's 23-year prison sentence of cartoonist Mohammed al-Ghamdi, who draws under the pen name of Al-Hazza, for expressing himself via his cartoons. The government recently extended the sentence to 23 years from six years already served. The cartoonist has contested the charges against him, saying they were fabricated. He was arrested in February 2018 by Saudi authorities, who accused him of producing "offensive cartoons" for Lusail, a Qatari newspaper, despite having ceased contributions to the publication.

The OPC stands with Mohammed al-Ghamdi and those expressing themselves as journalists – whether as reporters, editors, broadcast journalists or in this case, cartoonists – and condemns efforts to harass, interfere with, arrest or jail journalists for doing their work. We call on Saudi Arabian authorities to immediately release the cartoonist and restore his civil rights. Journalism and the free expression of ideas are not crimes.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Welcome New Members

Ellen Knickmeyer

Reporter

Associated Press

Washington, DC

Active Non-Resident



The OPC is grateful to the Simon and June Li Center for Global Journalism at Columbia University for subsidizing OPC memberships and OPC press IDs for the following Columbia journalism students.

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Simar Bajaj, winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone in 2024, [won](#) the Kavli Gold Award in the Science Reporting in the Large Outlet category from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for a freelance profile he wrote for The Guardian US on Joseph Sakran, a Baltimore trauma surgeon who was shot in the throat as a teenager and who has become a national advocate against gun violence, which he regards as a public health emergency. The AAAS Kavli Science Journalism Awards are among the most prestigious prizes in science journalism.



Hannah-Kathryn Walles, a photojournalist who won the Nathan S. Bienstock Memorial Scholarship this year, completed her six-week fellowship with The Associated Press in Rio de Janeiro in October. She wrote in a LinkedIn post that she documented a range of stories for the AP, including Brazil's Rock in Rio music festival, an Indigenous ceremony, and an environmental cleanup project by a marine biologist. "Every assignment was an exercise in meeting the moment – stretching the boundaries of my skills as a photojournalist and deepening my understanding of Brazil's dynamic political and social landscape." Walles thanked the OPC Foundation, saying the fellowship helped her to grow as a photographer and gain "a deeper sense of vision and purpose in my work." She has relocated to Rome, Italy, where she plans to continue working full-time in editorial and commercial photography.



Sarah Wu, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2019, has joined The Economist as a China correspondent in Beijing. She previously worked at Reuters, reporting on politics and society in Hong Kong, semiconductors and cross-strait relations in Taiwan, and the rise of the electric vehicle industry in China. Wu had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Hong Kong.

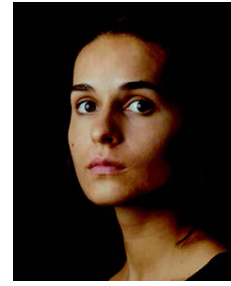


Suman Naishadham, the H.L. Stevenson Fellowship winner in 2018, is moving to Spain to cover Spain and Portugal for The Associated Press. She had been covering environmental policy for more than three years at the AP focusing on water, drought and climate change in the U.S. West. Naishadham was also an AP desk editor and reporter. She had an OPC Foundation fellowship with Reuters in Mexico City.



AWARDS

Nanna Heitmann, winner of this year's Danish Siddiqui Award, [was a finalist](#) in the Pulitzer Prize category of Feature Photography. She won for her images in The New York Times portraying life in Russia amid resurgent nationalism during the war in Ukraine. Heitmann [won](#) the Danish Siddiqui Award for "unflinching coverage" of the Russian side of the war in Ukraine, and [won](#) the Olivier Rebbot Award for 2020 for coverage of the pandemic in Russia. Separately, the New York Times staff won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for the same coverage of Hamas' attack in southern Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel's intelligence failures last year that also garnered the OPC's Hal Boyle Award.



FRONTLINE PBS won the 2024 Scripps Howard Journalism Award [on Oct. 20](#) for its documentary *20 Days in Mariupol*, adding yet another accolade for the film, which was produced by OPC Governor **Raney Aronson-Rath**, Michelle Mizner, Derl McCrudden and Mstyslav Chernov. The film also won this year's Peter Jennings Award from the OPC, an RTNDA 2024 Edward R. Murrow Award, an Oscar for Best Documentary Feature, and two BAFTA Awards. Columbia Journalism School honored Aronson-Rath with the John Chancellor Award for Excellence in Journalism in a ceremony [on Nov. 14](#) that is now available to watch on YouTube.



UPDATES

OPC Governor **Beth Knobel** was featured in Fordham's alumni magazine in a new column titled "What's on My Desk" [on Nov. 14](#). The series takes a look at interesting objects and keepsakes displayed by professors in their offices. Knobel, an associate professor who teaches multi-platform journalism, highlighted a "New York Mets shrine" on her bookshelf, complete with player bobbleheads and a miniature Shea Stadium, black belts in taekwondo, an autographed photo of Mikhail Gorbachev, a cork board displaying press passes from her 20-year career, and an Emmy Award statue that she won for her role as a producer in CBS News's coverage of the 2002 Moscow theater siege. "What a privilege to be a #journalist and travel all kinds of cool places. It's the most important job in the world!" she [wrote](#) in a post about the article on Bluesky.



OPC Governor **Alexis Okeowo**, a longtime staff writer at The New Yorker, wrote a piece for the magazine, posted online on Oct. 30, about the legacy of Kenyan author Binyavanga Wainaina, who died in 2019. Okeowo wrote about Wainaina's criticism of outside coverage of Africa, which was distilled in an essay in 2005 "How to Write About Africa" for Granta magazine, and "ruthlessly and amusingly took down the clichés of lazy writing and foreign correspondence about the continent." They said Wainaina had been fed up with tropes about corrupt natives, crusading aid workers, celebrity activists, and conservationists, and the lack of context about political problems in African nations. Wainaina chose to



become a writer because he wanted to see complex stories that did not erase or romanticize, that would depict the “messy and full” picture of himself and Africans that he knew, Okeowo wrote. “He wanted to write himself into existence. Many of us can relate.”

A New York Times piece with photographs and video from OPC Governor **Juan Arredondo** [on Nov. 4](#) documented the aftermath of raids on immigrant families in poultry towns in Mississippi five years ago. The piece, written by Isabelle Taft and titled “Trump’s Big Immigration Raid Snared Them. They’re Still in Mississippi,” follows some of the family members from the raids in August 2019 that led to the detention of 680 workers at poultry plants. Some were deported but have since returned to the U.S., and others have cases still tied up in immigration courts with yearslong backlogs.



OPC member **Vivienne Walt** filed a piece for FORTUNE magazine [on Oct. 31](#) about a small startup company using blockchain technology to shake up the \$100 billion diamond industry. The company, HB Antwerp, which was launched four years ago by three Belgian-Israeli cofounders, wants to shift control and profits away from hubs like London, Antwerp, and Tel Aviv, “to the countries where the diamonds are actually found. They argue that Botswana, with just 2.6 million people and vast diamond reserves (and tourist-attracting elephants) has not gotten its fair share since Western companies began extracting its precious gems nearly 60 years ago,” Walt wrote.



OPC member **Alice Driver** spoke at the 2024 Texas Book Festival in Austin [last weekend](#) about her book, *The Life and Death of the American Worker: The Immigrants Taking on America’s Largest Meatpacking Company*, an investigation into toxic labor practices at Tyson Foods which was published in September. She said she decided to start her investigation after talking with her mother, who works with Karin refugees from Myanmar in rural Arkansas, where many Karin work for Tyson. Driver said she had been working on an article about it, but faced resistance from editors, who “I think didn’t want me to finish it,” because “Arkansas is really run top to bottom by Tyson. If you want to feel absolutely bad about something, try writing about Tyson in Arkansas.” She said once large numbers of meatpacking workers started dying of COVID-19 in 2020, it became even more difficult as publishers became more afraid of lawsuits from Tyson. “So the fact that this is a book – I never thought it was going to happen. So, I’m glad to be here today and no one has sued me.” Her comments are available to watch on C-SPAN’s Book TV.



Keith Richburg, an OPC member and veteran Asia correspondent for The Washington Post, spoke to The Diplomat news site and magazine [on Nov. 13](#) about President Donald Trump’s return to the White House. Richburg told podcast host Luke Hunt, during an interview recorded in Bangkok, Thailand, that he expects a “carnival of chaos,” in foreign policy. He said China likely favored Trump over Vice President Kamala Harris because Tim Walz had been vocal about holding China to account for human rights violations, which “Donald Trump couldn’t care less about any of that. He’s very transactional.”

Evan Ratliff, an OPC member and journalist who serves as CEO and co-founder of media company Atavist, wrote a guest essay in *The New York Times* [on Nov. 10](#) recounting how he made an A.I. voice clone of himself. In a process he said took him less than an hour and powered by ChatGPT, he developed an A.I. clone that called colleagues and friends for a podcast about the experience, titled [Shell Game](#). “What I’ve learned is that interacting with A.I. voice agents will change how we interact with one another: who we trust, what we expect and what we need in our communications,” Ratliff wrote.

OPC member **Chriss Swaney** wrote a piece [on Oct. 25](#) about a survey from International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF) that revealed high levels of harassment and physical violence against reporters in the U.S. The report included responses from 610 reporters who attended 25 IWMF safety training sessions in 19 cities in 2024. Swaney spoke with OPC Past President **Allan Dodds Frank** for her story on [WorkersCompensation.com](#), quoting him as saying he was not surprised by the report, and in part blamed rhetoric from President Donald Trump, “who continues to denounce the media as ‘Fake News.’” She cited grim figures from the U.S. Department of Education indicating undergraduate and graduate journalism programs nationwide are in decline, with an average of two U.S. newspapers per week shuttered from the beginning of 2019 and May 2022. Swaney spent more than 20 years as a reporter and editor for national and international publications, including Reuters, UPI, *The New York Times* and Gannett, and 13 years at Carnegie Mellon University as media and public relations director for the College of Engineering.



Paul Caruana Galizia, winner of this year’s Cornelius Ryan Award, is [joining](#) the Financial Times as a reporter in its computational journalism team. His book about the assassination of his mother Daphne, *A Death in Malta*, won the Ryan award for the best book for on international affairs for 2023. With his brothers, he has received a Magnitsky Human Rights Award and an Anderson-Lucas-Norman Award for their campaign to bring her killers to justice. Caruana Galizia previously worked for Tortoise Media, where he investigated Russian influence on British politics, Iran’s treatment of dissidents in London, the former King of Spain’s financial affairs, and sexual misconduct investigations.



Poet **Mosab Abu Toha**, winner of this year’s Flora Lewis Award, spoke at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology on Oct. 30 about his experiences during attacks in Gaza over the last year, before fleeing with his family to Cairo and later to the United States. Pouya Alimagham, Middle East historian and MIT lecturer, moderated the event. Abu Toha won the Flora Lewis Award for his essays on Gaza for *The New Yorker*.



The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) [on Nov. 8](#) expressed concern after Indian investigative journalist **Rana Ayyub**, winner of the OPC’s Flora Lewis Award for 2021, had her personal phone number leaked online and, separately, was harassed by local intelligence personnel during a four-day reporting trip in the northeastern state of Manipur in early October. CPJ called for Indian authorities to “swiftly investigate



the doxxing of Ayyub and hold the perpetrators accountable.” Ayyub won the [Flora Lewis Award](#) for commentary in The Washington Post calling out Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s persecution of the Muslim minority.

People Column

New Resources

The deadline to apply for the **OPC Foundation Scholar Awards** is Sunday, Dec. 1.

Graduate and undergraduate students at North American colleges and universities or American students studying abroad are invited to apply. An applicant must be a college junior, senior or graduate student enrolled in a degree program at the application deadline and have demonstrated an interest in international journalism.

The Foundation grants 18 scholar awards for the pursuit of academic goals. The winners receive either a \$3,000 scholarship for independent work or a \$4,000 fellowship to be used to fund time in a bureau of a leading news organization such as the Associated Press, Reuters, Bloomberg or the Wall Street Journal. For more information on how to apply please visit the [OPC Foundation website here](#).

RESOURCES

The Global Investigative Journalism Network (GIJN) has posted a reporting guide to investigating extreme heat. The guide includes tips on finding angles to examine medical consequences and strain on healthcare systems, labor conditions, agriculture, sports, and how to report on policy and technology solutions. [Read the guide here](#).

The Knight Election Hub, PEN America and several ACOS members and partners launched Election Urgent Care safety helpline for U.S.-based journalists and news outlets needing one-on-one safety support. To contact the service, email urgentcare@electionsos.org and include “SAFETY” in the subject line. The helpline provides support for digital, physical, psychosocial, and legal concerns – from dealing with doxing, threats, and arrests to preparing for risky assignments.

MUCK RACK

In case you haven’t signed up for Muck Rack’s newsletter for journalists and PR professionals, the **Muck Rack Daily** [link to join is here](#).

Muck Rack Academy also provides training on a range of topics from measuring metrics to social media basics. The group offers live trainings and tutorials as well as on-demand recordings of past webinars. [Read more here](#).

The OPC hosted a training session with Muck Rack in July on how to set up a

profile and get the most out of its platform. [Read tips and watch the video here](#).

TRAINING AND PROGRAMS

On Nov. 28, the **Rory Peck Trust** will host its annual awards ceremony at the BFI Southbank in London. The awards honor outstanding achievements by freelance journalists and filmmakers working in news and current affairs. [Read more and purchase tickets here](#).

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has posted videos from the organization's 2024 Tribute to Journalists at the 40th Anniversary Awards Dinner on Nov. 14. The evening included presentations of the ICFJ International Journalism Award recipients, which included John-Allan Namu of Africa Uncensored in Kenya and Valeriya Yegoshyna of Schemes in Ukraine, as well as ICFJ Knight Trailblazer Award winner Rana Sabbagh of the Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project (OCCRP) and Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism (ARIJ). [Watch a playlist of videos here](#).

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Smithsonian Magazine is accepting submissions for its annual photo contest for professional and amateur photographers. Each category winner, along with the readers' choice winner, will receive \$500. The grand prize winner will receive \$2,500. Categories include: the natural world, travel, people, the American experience, artistic images and drone/aerial photos. The deadline to apply is Dec. 2. [Read more and apply now](#).

The Mobile Photography Awards is calling for photo and essay submissions for a competition and touring exhibit to promote mobile photography and art. A grand prize photography winner will receive \$3,000, and the MPA Photo Essay winner will receive \$500. Submission fees \$15 for one image, \$30 for three images, \$50 for six images and \$100 for 15 images. The entry for the MPA Photo Essay is \$29. The deadline to apply is Dec. 11. [Read more and apply here](#).

Reporters Without Borders (RWB) Germany is calling for applications for three fellowship programs for journalists at risk. Read more about each fellowship below.

[Reporting Fellowships](#) include a six month period of stay in Berlin from May to October 2025. Selected candidates will create a new project or continue to work on and complete an existing one. The project can span various media (visual, audio, or writing) and should be realizable within the period of stay in Berlin.

[Rest & Resilience Fellowships](#) are a joint program by the taz Panter Foundation and RSF Germany. During their stay in Berlin, media professionals at risk can take time off from their daily obligations in order to recover from their difficult working conditions and to expand their personal and professional horizons.

[The Berlin Fellowship Program: Empowering Journalists in the Digital Field](#) aims at journalists from crisis areas who have to deal with digital threats such as surveillance or digital violence. The fellows will participate in an in-depth-training program on digital security for journalists.

The Fund for Investigative Journalism is offering grants up to US\$10,000 to support investigative projects that break new ground and expose wrongdoing. The next deadline to apply is Jan. 27. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **James B. Steele Fellowship in Investigative Business Journalism** is accepting applications. The Fellowship targets early-career journalists who are looking to jump-start their career as business journalists and is open to applications from the U.S. and abroad. The deadline to apply is Jan. 1. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Documentarians in Eastern Europe and Central Asia can apply for the **Artdocfest/Riga IFF Pitch Session**, which will take place in March 2025, in Riga. Ten documentary projects will be selected. The deadline to apply is Jan.15. [Read more and apply here.](#)

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 chad@opcofamerica.org.

OPC Resources Page



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