



Overseas Press Club
of America

Bulletin Oct. 18, 2024



Greetings!

We hope you enjoy this October edition of the Bulletin. Catch up on recaps with video from recent programs: a panel on international interference in U.S. politics [on Oct. 8](#), a documentary screening and Q&A with filmmaker and subject in *Mediha* [on Oct. 11](#), and a discussion on populism at the American Library in Paris [on Sept. 18](#). As always, read OPC member news in the People Column, programs and opportunities in our Resources section, and more.

In addition, please note that a date has been scheduled for the 2025 Annual Awards Dinner, which will be held [on April 17](#) at Cipriani 25 Broadway. Read more below.

Panelists Discuss Risks of Global Disinformation Campaigns to Interfere in US Politics

by Chad Bouchard

With polls and political soothsayers predicting another close U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5, analysts and government officials are raising alarms about the role of foreign interference, as countries ramp up disinformation campaigns to sway a sharply divided electorate.

“Russians, Chinese and Iranians have figured out how to take advantage of the open internet in ways that in retrospect are completely predictable,” said Gordon Crovitz, who was publisher of *The Wall Street Journal* and editor and publisher of the *Far Eastern Economic Review* in Hong Kong. “But I think that took all of us – whether we were journalists or people charged with trying to protect democracies from disinformation – by surprise.”

Crovitz made his remarks during an OPC panel on Oct. 8 to discuss risks and strategies to untangle misinformation and disinformation in newsrooms. He is

co-founder and currently serves as co-CEO of NewsGuard, an organization whose journalistically trained analysts counter disinformation by rating the trustworthiness of news sources and the most significant claims spreading on the internet. The moderator was Scott Kraft, editor-at-large for the Los Angeles Times and OPC President.

Also participating was David Rohde, national security editor at NBC News. Rohde said the biggest misinformation risks stem from within the U.S., worsened by deep political divisions, “but what Russia and China and Iran have learned is to amplify our differences.” Rohde said his biggest current concern is a potential lack of acceptance of results of the Nov. 5 election, driven mainly by former President Donald Trump and his supporters, whose refusal to accept results of the 2020 election enflamed attacks on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

“It’s clear that there’s no better way to divide Americans [than] to show the U.S. as being chaotic, and most of all to show that democracy doesn’t work,” he said, adding that China, Russia and Iran each have their own internal political reasons to divide Americans and frame democracies as disorderly and dysfunctional.

[Read the Full Recap](#)



Upcoming Events

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.

Filmmakers Discuss Documentary on Yazidi Genocide After 'Mediha' Screening at Film Forum

by Chad Bouchard

A young Yazidi woman who was the central figure of a documentary received a standing ovation after its screening at the Film Forum in New York last week.

The film, *Mediha*, follows Mediha Alhamad's three-year search for justice after surviving kidnapping and enslavement by ISIS in 2014 at the age of 9, along with her younger brothers, Ghazwan and Adnan. Alhamad filmed much of the footage herself, as a kind of personal video diary.



On Oct. 11 and 12, the theater hosted two Q&A sessions with Alhamad along with the director, Hasan Oswald, among other panelists. OPC Vice President Deborah Amos, who moderated the Oct. 12 event, said “there was a gasp in the theater” after the screening when the audience recognized Alhamad and rose to their feet in applause.

Amos called the film “horrifying and beautiful,” and said the audience “would have stayed for hours to hear Mediha answer questions about her new life.”

Oswald and one of the producers, 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.

[Read the Full Recap](#)

Photo above, left to right: Carol Dysinger, Hasan Oswald, Mediha Alhamad and Beatrice Tesconi

Panelists Discuss Rising Global Populism at the American Library in Paris

OPC member Vivienne Walt, a Paris correspondent for TIME and FORTUNE magazines, said during a panel on global populism at the American Library in Paris on Sept. 18 that “it’s safe to say we’re in a bit of a perilous moment, politically,” particularly in the U.S., but warned those living in Europe to be vigilant.

“We don’t have a major dominant populist figure in Europe at the moment that’s truly disruptive, but that doesn’t mean it won’t happen, or that it won’t happen soon, given what’s happening across Europe.”

Walt served as moderator for the event, which was co-sponsored by the OPC.

Other panelists were: Martin Gelin, a longtime award-winning journalist on the U.S. far-right, and author of eight books on American politics; Elisabeth Zerofsky, a contributing writer to the New York Times Magazine who joined remotely via video; and Thierry Arnaud, international editor for France’s BFM-TV.

The panelists highlighted the 2024 Trump campaign and success of the National Rally in June’s legislative elections in France as signs of thriving populism, but said the victory of the Labour Party in the U.K. and other election results in Eastern Europe are signs that populism could be receding in some cases.

[Read More](#)



OPC Condemns Israeli Raid on Al Jazeera Offices

The OPC released the following statement on Oct. 4:

The Overseas Press Club of America strongly condemns the Israeli military's recent raid upon the Ramallah bureau offices of Al Jazeera, confiscating documents and removing journalists from the newsroom. According to news reports, the Israeli military ordered that the office be closed for 45 days, saying that the news organization was "being used to incite terror."

Al Jazeera, a global news organization based in Doha, rejected the Israeli military's claims, in a statement calling the raid "not only an attack on Al Jazeera, but an affront to press freedom and the very principles of journalism."

The news organization went on to say that the measures were "clearly intended to prevent the world from witnessing the reality of the situation in the occupied territories and the ongoing war on Gaza and the devastating impact on innocent civilians."

The OPC stands with Al Jazeera and other news organizations and journalists seeking to fairly cover the Israel-Hamas War and the devastation wrought in Gaza – often at danger to themselves. We again stand against any government or government-affiliated organizations blocking press coverage by denying access, harassing or arresting journalists, or as in this case, seizing the offices of working journalists.

Journalism is not a crime. The OPC reiterates its call for journalists working in Gaza to be able to do their work without government or military interference.

[Read on the OPC Website](#)

Welcome New Members

Aida Alami

Visiting Professor
Columbia University
Rabat, Morocco
Active Overseas

**Benedict Moran**

Freelance
Montreal, Canada
Active Overseas

**Theia Chatelle**

Freelance
New Haven, CT
Active Resident, Young
(29 and under)

Lauren Walsh

Professor & Director of
the Photojournalism
Intensive
New York University
New York
Associate Resident

**Claire Davenport**

Freelance
New York
Active Resident,
Young (29 and under)



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.

Abiose Adams**Aderinsola Adetosoye****Almar Ahad****Janine A. AlHadidi****Jake Angelo****Jacob Anthony Amaro****Luisa Barone****Prajwal Bhat****Anvee Bhutani****Dana Binfet****Amancai Biraben****Roman Broszkowski****Alexandra Munro Byrne****Michele Calamaio****Christian Caurla****Ananya Chetia****Huiyee Chiew****Dante Dallago****Subhanjana Das****Martina Di Licosa****Rosalind Ding****Hayley Duffy****Fatima Khan****Maria Knodt****Rajeev Kumar Tyagi****Mason Leath****Delan Li****Alexandra Markovich****Andrew Mercein****Racquel Miller****Rashi Mishra****Isabella Morales****Carolina S. Pedrazzi****Valerie Pires****Jonathan Rampley-Sturgeon****Blythe Reis****Christopher J. Robinson****Stephanie Rodriguez****Claudia Rosel****Ayushee Roy****Manuel Scheuernstuhl****Chiara Schmid****Riddhi Setty****Duaa E. Zahra Shah**

Michael Eder
Maram Elnagheeb
Alice Finno
Callum Foote
Andrea Galliano
Carolina Marins Abbott Galvão
Hazel Gandhi
Mackenzie George
Juliana Tao Min Giacone
Yejin Gim
Carl David Goette-Luciak
Lidia Goldberg
Elizaveta Golovtsova
Jaylen Green
Ryan Green
Megha Gupta
Cristen “CJ” Haddad
Somaiyah Hafeez
Reeno Hashimoto
Anna Heisterkamp
Eleanor Marie Hildebrandt
Iona Horton
Sonia Huq
Brittany Jones-Cooper

Cindy (Xinyi) Shan
Julia Shannon-Grillo
Churui Shao
Surbhi Sharma
Kristen He Shen
Vahini Shori
Nicola Sitch
Claudia Camille Steenhard
Sharla Steinman
Anusha Subramanian
Sorina Szakacs
Hope Talbot
Tamara Turki
Deep Kaushik Vakil
Ana Gonzalez Vilá
Fred Voon
Nichole Whiteley
John Williams
Ken Wu
Kristi Yang
Perri Yaniv
Cate Zanardi
Erchi Zhang

People by Chad Bouchard

SCHOLARS

Hana Kiros, winner of the 2024 S&P Global Award for Economic and Business Reporting Reporting, is now an assistant editor at The Atlantic, focusing on science, tech and health. Her first piece appeared in the Sept. 23 issue, titled [How to Save Outdoor Recess](#), covering school responses to health risks of recent heat waves for children, and how safety policies could restrict access to outdoor play.



Sarah Dadouch, the Emanuel R. Freedman Scholarship winner in 2017, has left The Washington Post where she was a Beirut-based correspondent covering Syria and Lebanon, as well as the Gulf, to join Semafor Gulf where she will cover Saudi financial, business and geopolitical news. Previously, she was a Reuters correspondent in Beirut, Riyadh and Istanbul covering Lebanon, Syria, the Gulf and Turkey. Dadouch had an OPC Foundation fellowship in the Reuters bureau in Beirut.



Bloomberg News reporter **Olivia Carville**, the Roy Rowan Scholarship winner in 2018, has [won](#) the Women's Economic

Round Table (WERT) Prize from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism for the second time in three years. Carville was awarded the 2024 WERT Global Prize for a series of stories focusing on mental health and safety risks of social media for young people. The WERT Prize honors excellence in comprehensively reported business journalism by a woman that fosters a greater understanding of global business.



Jesse Coburn, the winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone in 2016, was named a national reporter with ProPublica. Most recently, he was with StreetblogNYC where he won the [2023 George Polk Award](#) in Local Reporting for [Ghost Tags: Inside New York City's Black Market for Temporary License Plates](#).



Diksha Madhok, the Theo Wilson Scholarship winner in 2011, has joined Bloomberg News as its South Asia economy and government editor. She previously had been at CNN Business as an editor and reporter based in Delhi. Madhok also worked for Quartz as editor and platform director of QZ India.



Jeff Horwitz, the Fred Weigold winner in 2009, and his colleague Katherine Blunt at the Wall Street Journal won a 2024 Loeb Award in the beat reporting category for a story entitled "The Dark Side of Meta's Algorithms." The series of articles described how Instagram and Facebook connected networks of pedophiles and served them disturbing content, and how parent Meta Platforms not only failed to stop this harmful activity but added to the risks.



Anupreeta Das, the Reuters Scholarship winner in 2006, is leaving The New York Times' New York bureau where she served as finance editor since 2020 to join the Times' Delhi bureau as a South Asian correspondent. Das has also worked at the Wall Street Journal and Reuters. She is the author of the recently published [Billionaire, Nerd, Savior, King: Bill Gates and His Quest to Shape Our World](#).



Damien Cave, winner of the Harper's Magazine Scholarship in Memory of I.F. Stone in 1998 and formerly bureau chief in Australia for The New York Times, is moving to Ho Chi Minh City to open the Times' first bureau in Vietnam since 1975. Cave has spent most of the past 20 years as a correspondent for the Times based in Baghdad, Miami, Mexico City and Sydney, and spent lengthy stints reporting from many other places, including Lebanon, India, Taiwan, Turkey and Cuba. He is the author of [Parenting Like an Australian: One Family's Quest to Fight Fear and Dive into a Better, Braver Life](#). Cave was part of the New York Times team that won the OPC's [2007 Website Award](#) for best web coverage of international affairs for coverage of violence in Baghdad.

AWARDS

OPC Governor **Raney Aronson-Rath**, the editor-in-chief and executive producer of FRONTLINE PBS, [has received](#) the John Chancellor Excellence in Journalism Award from the Columbia Journalism School. Aronson-Rath's journalism career spans 25 years as reporter, producer and correspondent. She said in an article about the award on the FRONTLINE website that she is "profoundly honored and humbled by this recognition" and thanked Columbia along with FRONTLINE staff, colleagues at WGBH, PBS and CPB, and "all the journalists and filmmakers who have inspired, collaborated, and supported me." The award is presented annually to a journalist "with courage and integrity for cumulative professional accomplishments." In addition, FRONTLINE [won](#) two Emmys at the 45th annual News & Documentary Emmy Awards this year, for documentaries on Clarence and Ginni Thomas and the Pegasus spyware scandal. Aronson-Rath was one of eight documentary filmmakers and news industry professionals inducted into the Silver Circle by the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS), which the organization describes as "an elite group of professionals who have made significant contributions to television" for 25 years.



Fordham University has [named](#) **Jane Ferguson's** book, *No Ordinary Assignment* as the recipient of this year's Ann M. Sperber Book Prize. Ferguson won the OPC's Peter Jennings Award in 2021 for her coverage on PBS NewsHour of the fall of Afghanistan, and [participated](#) in an OPC book night about *No Ordinary Assignment* last October. She will accept the Sperber Book Prize and deliver remarks at a ceremony on Nov. 11 at Fordham's Lincoln Center campus.



UPDATES

Sewell Chan, an OPC member who recently became executive editor of the Columbia Journalism Review (CJR), [wrote](#) his first letter to readers on Sept. 20 to express his gratitude and declare goals. He referenced the publication's mission statement in 1961, which noted a "widespread uneasiness about the state of journalism," saying that in 2024, "our age has only gotten more complicated." He said technological disruption, changing business models, rising misinformation, and threats to democracy are challenging the news industry. He pledged for CJR to expand international and local news coverage, cover emerging business models for news, AI tools and disruption, and "reflect on the role of journalism as a civic practice."



Kang-Chun Cheng, an OPC member who works as print and photojournalist based in Kenya, filed a piece from Nigeria [in September](#) for Al Jazeera about the use of artificial intelligence to help communities recover from this year's devastating floods. She wrote that seasonal flooding affects 4.5 million people living in Nigeria's Kogi State and a total of 15 million across the country, with one million people displaced by the collapse of a dam in mid-September this year. She said a program that uses AI to predict flooding gives money to people living in high-risk areas before the waters rise, allowing communities to brace for the aftermath by



stocking up on supplies.

OPC member **George de Lama**, president of the Eisenhower Fellowships, [on Sept. 18](#) honored co-recipients of the 2024 James and Carol Hovey Eisenhower Fellowships Impact Award for their work to support social enterprises in Colombia. The recipients were Camilo Fonseca Velásquez of the Cultural and Graphic Industries for the Bogotá Chamber of Commerce, and Mariana Villamizar, the director of public and corporate relations for Grupo Éxito. The two were honored for their work on RECON, an online platform they lead that focuses on social enterprises, poverty reduction and peace-building projects “in a country dealing with the consequences of the long-running war between the government, organized crime syndicates, Far-Left guerrillas and Far-Right paramilitary groups.”



Mosab Abu Toha, a Palestinian poet who won the OPC’s Flora Lewis Award for best commentary this year, appeared as a guest on NPR’s Fresh Air [on Oct. 15](#) to talk about his award-winning essays in The New Yorker. Toha told host Terry Gross that he fled his home in Gaza days after the Oct. 7 attacks last year, along with his wife and their three young children. Their home was destroyed in a bombing attack two weeks later, and the refugee camp they sought shelter in was also bombed before they eventually got passports and left Gaza. Toha said he was then detained for two days and beaten by Israeli soldiers, falsely accusing him of being a member of Hamas, while crossing into Egypt.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

Dusko Doder, a prominent Cold War journalist who led the Moscow bureau of The Washington Post, died [on Sept. 10](#) in Chiang Mai, Thailand, at the age of 87. Doder was known for breaking key stories, including the death of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov in February 1984, which he concluded after noticing hundreds of lights illuminating the Soviet Defense Ministry in Moscow and state television and radio suddenly changing programs to classical music – an observation U.S. officials dismissed. Doder was the target of a false accusation in TIME magazine in 1992, when a poorly sourced story suggested he had received a \$1,000 payment from the K.G.B. Doder sued TIME for libel and won, receiving an apology from the magazine and \$262,000 to cover his legal costs. But his career was cut short after the article appeared Former Post executive editor Ben Bradlee said in a 1995 memoir that Doder’s scoop on Andropov’s death had embarrassed the C.I.A., saying the agency had a hand in the TIME story to get even. The accusation hamstrung the rest of Doder’s career. He left the Post in 1987 and was posted in China for the U.S. News and World Report and then later worked as a freelancer in Belgrade. Doder’s work garnered two OPC Citations for Excellence, one in 1982 in the Bob Considine category for coverage of the Soviet Union and one in 1989 in the Hallie and Whit Burnett category for work on a U.S. News & World Report piece titled “Revolution and Ruin.”



New Resources

RESOURCES

The **International Women’s Media Foundation (IWMF)** has released a new report on physical violence and harassment against journalists. IWMF sent a survey to hundreds of local journalists in the U.S. who attended safety trainings across 11 states this year. The organization gathered data on incidents that included threats of gun violence, verbal attacks and sexual harassment while on assignment and in the workplace. Key findings include:

- **36% (of 597) respondents** reported being threatened with or experiencing physical violence while working as a journalist.
- **33% (of 566) respondents** reported being threatened with or experiencing digital violence while working as a journalist.
- **28% (of 568) respondents** reported legal threats or action against them while working as a journalist.
- **24% (of 582) respondents** experienced sexual harassment and an additional 6% (of 582) were threatened with sexual violence.

[Read the full report here.](#)

DeleteMe, a data security company based in Massachusetts, is partnering with the IWMF to help women and nonbinary journalists protect themselves from doxing attacks. The company can expunge an individual’s personal information from search engines and data brokerage sites. Participating journalists can create a DeleteMe account and submit their personal information to begin the process. [Read more and sign up for a DeleteMe account here](#)

The City, University of London’s Journalism Department has launched a project to document challenges freelance journalists face and to highlight media organizations around the World. The project is calling for journalists to fill out a 15-minute survey to help to improve journalism training and education of freelancers and to “shed light on inequalities in the profession from a global perspective.” [Take the survey here.](#)

MUCK RACK

Muck Rack released a report in late September on the “State of Work-Life Balance in Journalism.” The report analyzed data from surveys of about 1,800 journalists, looking at salary, access to mental health services and burnout among respondents. The report found that less than 25 percent of journalists have access to mental health services at work, 40 percent have previously left a job due to burnout, and 64 percent said they work more than 40 hours a week. [Sign up to read the full report here](#)

Muck Rack also posted a piece on its blog that highlights tips for beginning freelance journalists from three Muck Rack members who were named among the platform’s “most popular freelance journalists.” The article includes insights from Alice Dubin, Aly Walansky and Brad Japhe on a range of topics including networking, pitching, building a portfolio, dealing with pitch rejections and how to negotiate rates. [Read the article 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

The **Double Exposure Film Festival**, hosted by the 100Reporters organization, will take place from Nov. 7 to Nov. 10 in Washington, D.C. this year. The festival focuses on investigative journalism and cinematic storytelling. This year's themes explore AI, climate change, and political polarization. [Read more here.](#)

A journalist at the 2024 **iMedD International Journalism Forum** [on Sept. 28](#) in Athens, Greece, presented a talk on creative formats for disseminating investigative stories. Jose Miguel Calatayud, a Spanish journalist based in Berlin, discussed advantages and disadvantages of different publishing methods, and encouraged journalists, editors, managers, and funders to be more open to creative format ideas. [Watch the program here.](#)

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) in September [announced](#) four exceptional journalists who will be honored at the 2024 International Press Freedom Awards on Nov. 21. The awardees are Shrouq Al Aila, a Palestinian journalist reporting from the Gaza Strip; Alsu Kurmasheva, a journalist and editor at Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL); Quimy de León, a Guatemalan journalist who co-founded Prensa Comunitaria; and Samira Sabou, one of Niger's most prominent investigative journalists. For more information about attending or sponsoring CPJ's awards, [click here.](#)

GRANTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Wall Street Journal is calling for applications for its Summer 2025 internships. Applications close on Oct. 27 at midnight Eastern Time. [Read more and apply here.](#)

Applications are open for the **Open Notebook's Early-Career Fellowship Program** for 2025. The one-year program is a paid, part-time fellowship for early-career science journalists. Fellows will work with a mentor to plan, report, and write articles for publication at The Open Notebook and become part of the editorial team. The application deadline is Oct. 31. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)** has announced it will award Reporting Grants of \$2,000 - \$3,000 grants and possibly mentorship to at least two winning proposals. The deadline to submit a proposal is Friday, Nov. 1 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time. [Read more and apply here.](#)

The Good Science Project Writing Fellowship is offering science reporting grants of \$5,000 for feature-length magazine articles on the funding and practice of science in the U.S. Grants will support articles that "reveal flaws in current science policy, practice, or funding and identify ways these challenges might be overcome." The deadline to apply is Nov. 15. [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."

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OPC Resources Page



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