



Christine Mungai is the Nairobi-based editor of Africapedia, a web publication that features data on key trends and major issues in the news in Africa. Her journalism career began in 2010 at The East African newspaper, where she reported on politics, security, business, culture and the arts. In 2014, she joined the Mail & Guardian Africa, where she reported from a pan-African perspective with a heavy focus on data-driven reporting. She is studying the relationship between torture, silence and repression and how that affects a country's political imagination and media reporting.



Nneka Nwosu Faison is a Boston-based news reporter and producer for WCVB-TV's "Chronicle" program. Her shows focus on issues affecting minorities and millennials, from life expectancy disparities among racial groups to the student debt crisis. Nwosu also teaches digital journalism at Emerson College. She previously worked as a multimedia journalist at WTNH-TV in Connecticut and as an anchor/reporter at WPRI-TV and WNAC-TV in Rhode Island. She is studying how broadcast news stations can utilize social media video as a storytelling and revenue tool and how journalists can use social media to engage diverse audiences.



João Pina is a Portuguese photographer who has worked in Latin America, Afghanistan, Libya, Egypt, Ivory Coast and Mozambique. He is a regular contributor to The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Washington Post, Le Monde, El País and Stern. His first book features the stories of 25 former Portuguese political prisoners. His second book, "Condor," deals with a military operation designed to destroy opposition to dictatorships in South America in the 1970s. Pina is studying archival photography and the way its juxtaposition with current images can increase storytelling impact and outreach.



María Ramírez is a Spanish reporter and entrepreneur who works in New York and Madrid. She writes about U.S. politics for Univision and co-founded Politibot, a chatbot that delivers messages about political developments in Spain, the rest of Europe and the United States. She previously worked as a correspondent for the Spanish daily El Mundo, and was part of the founding team of the startup El Español. Ramírez is the co-author of three books about U.S. politics. She is studying how to develop personalized tools to reach an audience skeptical about media in the age of populism and fake news.



Mat Skene is the executive producer of Al Jazeera's award-winning current affairs program "Fault Lines." Under his management, the show has covered a range of topics, including Haiti's cholera epidemic, human trafficking on U.S. military bases and the fallout of President Trump's proposed travel ban. A U.K. citizen, he has been based in Washington, D.C., since 2008. Before that, he worked in Malaysia for Al Jazeera's current affairs program "101 East." He is studying how the conventions of Western television media have led to a dominant form of storytelling in journalism and will explore new alternatives.



Bonny Symons-Brown joined the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in 2013. She has worked in radio and TV news and was most recently the supervising producer of "The Drum," a political talk show providing analysis of the day's biggest stories. Previously Symons-Brown was based in Jakarta and anchored a daily news program on Indonesian television. Her career started in the Australian parliamentary press gallery for the AAP wire service. She is studying the intersection of Islam, democracy and human rights, drawing comparisons between Indonesia and the rest of the Muslim world.

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Frederik Obermaier is an investigative reporter for the Munich-based Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany's largest daily. He is one of the two reporters first contacted by the anonymous source of the Panama Papers, the leaked documents that prompted a global investigation involving hundreds of journalists. That reporting earned a Pulitzer Prize. Obermaier is member of the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists and is the author of several books including "Panama Papers." He is studying how to probe the global implications of tax havens, with a focus on the role of banks, lawyers, wealth managers and consulting firms.



Michael Petrou is a Canadian journalist who writes for OpenCanada, the National Post, iPolitics, CBC and The Walrus. He has reported from across Europe, the Middle East and Central Asia and is the author of two books: "Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War" and "Is This Your First War? Travels Through the Post-9/11 Islamic World." Petrou has a Ph.D. in modern history. He is studying the media environment in the contested political spaces of Eastern Europe and the Middle East; how Russia and Western nations try to shape accepted narratives; and democratizing opportunities presented by new technologies and media platforms.



Emily Rueb, a reporter for The New York Times, writes and produces New York 101, a multimedia column explaining infrastructure. At the Times, she pioneered new approaches to storytelling for the breaking news blog, City Room, where she covered Hurricane Sandy and major elections, and created a niche writing about avian life. She also edited Metropolitan Diary. Rueb has contributed to The Financial Times, BBC Scotland, Time Out Paris and Cleveland Magazine. She is studying the evolution of public works in the United States to understand how infrastructure investment will impact cities and citizens.



Shalini Singh is a New Delhi-based features reporter. She has worked for the Indian newsmagazine The Week and, prior to that, reported for the Hindustan Times. She also was a fellow at the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment and has reported widely on environmental issues. Singh is a founding member of the CounterMedia Trust and a regular contributor to the People's Archive of Rural India. At Harvard, she is working to expand this multimedia digital repository of information about the lives, languages and cultures of the 833 million people in India's countryside who are largely ignored by the mainstream media.



Lauren N. Williams is the features editor for Essence. She assigns and edits articles, profiles and special reports on topics including reproductive rights, gun violence, politics, public health and social justice. She also manages Essence's career, finance and technology content. Before Essence, Williams worked at More and Marie Claire, where she wrote news articles and lifestyle and culture features. She is studying the historic contributions of black women to American society, with a focus on how they have shaped culture, and will develop a new journalistic digital platform that prioritizes their experiences.



Edward Wong is an international correspondent for The New York Times who served as the Beijing bureau chief and China correspondent from 2008 to 2016. He has reported across Asia, including in Afghanistan, North Korea and Myanmar. He also covered the Iraq War from 2003 to 2007 as a Baghdad-based correspondent. He joined the Times in 1999 and reported for the business, metro and sports desks before going overseas. Wong has taught at Princeton University as a Ferris Professor of Journalism. He is studying the rise and fall of modern empires, their strategies for shaping the world and the consequences of their declines.



2017-2018 NIEMAN FELLOWS



FROM THE
CURATOR
ANN MARIE LIPINSKI

As we welcome our 80th class of fellows, the mission of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism has rarely been more urgent. Our benefactor, Agnes Wahl Nieman, endowed this program to “promote and elevate the standards of journalism and educate persons deemed specially qualified for journalism.” With simple and elegant intent, she began the distinguished fellowship that since 1938 has invited some of the world’s most accomplished and promising journalists for a year of Harvard study. Our class of 24 fellows—half from the U.S. and half from abroad—will undertake work designed to enhance their expertise and return them to journalism better prepared to understand and interpret a complex world. In addition to their academic studies at Harvard, the fellows are actively engaged in Nieman Foundation master classes, seminars and conferences that strengthen their ability to lead, create and innovate during a challenging time in journalism’s history.

On campus, the fellows also may serve as resources through a variety of collaborations. Recent fellows have co-authored papers with faculty, led seminars, given classroom lectures and served as mentors to students. The experience found in this year’s class represents an important asset we hope you take advantage of throughout the year.

On behalf of Nieman, I extend my gratitude to those faculty and others who have been so generous with their time and expertise over the long life of this program. You have advanced the work not only of individual journalists but of journalism more broadly. We thank you in advance for your support of the Nieman class of 2018.

THE NIEMAN FOUNDATION FOR JOURNALISM AT HARVARD

educates leaders in journalism and elevates the standards of the profession through special programs that convene scholars and experts in all fields. More than 1,500 accomplished and promising journalists from 96 countries have been awarded Nieman Fellowships since 1938. The foundation’s other initiatives include Nieman Reports, a quarterly print and online magazine that covers thought leadership in journalism; Nieman Lab, a website that reports on the future of news, innovation and best practices in the digital media age; and Nieman Storyboard, a website that showcases exceptional narrative journalism and explores the future of nonfiction storytelling.

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Tristan Ahtone is a New Mexico-based journalist who most recently served as a features reporter covering indigenous affairs for Al Jazeera America. He has reported for “PBS NewsHour,” “Frontline,” “National Native News,” Fusion, Wyoming Public Radio, Fronteras Desk and NPR. A member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, Ahtone is vice president of the Native American Journalists Association and is a contributing editor at High Country News. He is studying how to improve coverage of indigenous communities with a particular focus on creating ethical guidelines, protocols and codes of conduct.



Maryclaire Dale is a legal affairs reporter for The Associated Press. Her career has taken her from labor strikes in the West Virginia coalfields to a Caribbean murder trial to the sexual assault trials of Catholic priests and actor Bill Cosby. Her work unsealing Cosby’s decade-old testimony in a confidential legal settlement led to his arrest and felony trial. Dale covered the \$1 billion settlement of NFL concussion claims, from the filing of the first lawsuits through the U.S. Supreme Court appeal. She is studying how journalists can improve coverage of sexual violence as more victims come forward.



Sebastián Escalón is a reporter who most recently covered environmental issues, resource extraction and human rights for the Guatemalan online magazine Plaza Pública. In 2013, he was part of the team that covered the trial of Efraín Ríos Montt, Guatemala’s ex-dictator accused of genocide. Before joining Plaza Pública, he was a science writer at Le journal du CNRS in Paris. A citizen of both France and El Salvador, Escalón is the first Salvadoran to receive a Nieman Fellowship. He is studying the Alliance for Prosperity Plan, a new policy trying to address the migration crisis in Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.



Glenda M. Gloria is the managing editor and co-founder of Rappler, the leading social news network in the Philippines. After working as a reporter for local and foreign publications covering politics, conflicts, rebel movements and the military, she went on to run newspaper, magazine, cable news and online newsrooms. She received a MacArthur grant for “Under the Crescent Moon: Rebellion in Mindanao,” the book she co-authored with 1987 Nieman Fellow Marites Dañguilan Vitug. Gloria is studying the evolution of journalism and democracy and the changing relationship between journalists, citizens and democratic institutions.



Siphso Kings is the Mail & Guardian’s environment reporter. He focuses on the ways human and industrial expansion affect vulnerable people and the environment and has covered topics ranging from the impact of climate change on droughts and coastal flooding to new safeguards for fragile ecosystems. He also has reported on the impact of air pollution on human health. Now based in South Africa, he was born in Swaziland and is the first Nieman Fellow to come from that nation. He is studying how Africa’s carbon emitters plan to lower their emissions and help populations adapt to the changing climate.



Lisa Lerer is a national political writer at The Associated Press, where she was a lead reporter covering the 2016 U.S. presidential race and its aftermath. She has reported in Washington for 10 years, covering the White House, elections, Congress and lobbying for the AP, Politico, Businessweek and Bloomberg News. Her work has also been published in The Wall Street Journal, Forbes, Slate, Fortune and The American Lawyer, where she covered business and legal issues. She has reported from 45 of the 50 U.S. states. Lerer is studying how distrust of major societal institutions is reshaping American politics.



Emily Dreyfuss is a senior writer at Wired, where she explores the ways technology shapes society. At Wired, she has taken on many roles, from news editor to opinion editor to cybersecurity editor. In 2016, she edited Wired’s national affairs coverage of the U.S. presidential election. Dreyfuss previously worked as a senior editor at CNET, where she wrote commentary and ran social media. Her writing has appeared in The Week and on theatlantic.com. As the 2018 Nieman-Berkman Klein Fellow in Journalism Innovation, she is examining how the internet and social media change the way history is written.



Dustin Dwyer is a reporter for Michigan Radio, where he has covered economics and work opportunities for more than a decade. He reported on the auto industry in the years leading up to the bankruptcies at GM and Chrysler, and his reports have frequently aired on NPR and “Marketplace.” For the past five years, Dwyer has participated in the State of Opportunity project, which uses longform narrative reporting to tell the stories of disadvantaged families and children in Michigan. He is studying the connection between work and personal identity and examining the upheavals that come with changes in the nature of work.



Lenka Kabrhelova is a U.S. correspondent for Czech Radio. She previously worked as a Czech Radio correspondent in Russia, where she reported on political, social, economic and cultural stories, including the 2008 Russian-Georgian war, political trials and street protests in Moscow and developments in other post-Soviet nations. She additionally worked as a presenter and reporter in the Czech section of the BBC World Service in Prague and in London. She is studying the polarization of the media environment and ways to engage diverse audiences in a climate of eroding trust.



Matthew Karolian is director of audience engagement at The Boston Globe, where he oversees strategies to bring the newsroom’s journalism closer to readers. During his tenure, the Globe’s social audiences have grown to more than two million followers and its reporting has expanded to new platforms such as Facebook Instant Articles and Apple News. Karolian got his start in journalism as a stringer for C-SPAN during the 2008 presidential primaries in New Hampshire, covering everything from house parties to victory speeches. He is studying the impact of artificial intelligence on how news is reported and consumed.



Jamieson Lesko is a London-based producer at NBC News. She has reported from 25 countries across network, cable and digital platforms on terrorism, geopolitics and war, including serving as NBC’s Kabul bureau chief. Previously, she was an executive producer at MSNBC, where she led primetime shows through periods of record ratings growth. She has covered a wide range of events, from the 9/11 and 2015 Paris attacks to Europe’s migration crisis and Libya’s Arab Spring uprising. Lesko is studying the intersection between truth, political persuasion, perception and trust in mainstream media.



Diana Marcum is a senior writer for the Los Angeles Times, where she has worked since 2011. Her portraits of people in the drought-stricken towns of California’s Central Valley won a 2015 Pulitzer Prize. She started her journalism career as an editorial assistant and later a reporter at the San Bernardino Sun. She also worked as a reporter and columnist at The Fresno Bee. Marcum’s book about the diaspora of Azoreans who return to the islands each summer will be published in May 2018. She is studying the impact of true stories on people and cultures as well as the divide between urban and rural sectors.