Steve Myer is editor of The Lens, a nonprofit investigative newsroom in New Orleans. He has overseen investigations that include prosecutors’ use of fake subpoenas and a scheme to pay actors to show up for support in a new power plant. Myer previously served as managing editor of ProPublica Online and has worked at several newspapers in Alabama, North Carolina and West Virginia. In 2000, he created the news site that grew into the Guardian’s podcast team. Panetta started her career at the BBC. She is researching how experimentation and the adoption of emerging technologies in journalism can be more strategic.

Nathan Payne is executive editor of Michigan’s Traverse City Record-Eagle, where he has previously worked as the paper’s features editor. He also serves as a regional editor for the CNHI newspaper group and works with editors in Michigan, Minnesota and Iowa. Earlier in his career, he worked at the Gilette (Wyoming) News Record. Payne is one of three inaugural Abrams Nieman Fellows for Local Investigative Journalism. He is studying the effects of trauma and mental illness on rates of poverty and violence in America.

Francesca Panetta is executive editor of virtual reality at The Guardian, where she leads an immersive innovation for the last 10 years. She runs an in-house VR production studio dedicated to creating groundbreaking content. The studio’s first VR experience, “Far: A virtual experience of solitary confinement,” won attention as an exemplary case of story and form. She has previously made interactive documentaries and augmented reality soundscapes within the oil and gas industries. Panetta started her career at the BBC. She is researching how experimentation and the adoption of emerging technologies in journalism can be more strategic.

Gabriella Schwarz is the managing editor and head of news at Flipboard, a curation platform with 145 million users. She leads global editorial strategy and coverage of news, business, technology, politics, sports and celebrity news. Before joining Flipboard, she was a producer at CNN covering politics and the White House. She traveled around the world to report on President Obama and produced a documentary about his life and work. She previously worked at the CBS News and Congressional Quarterly. She is studying how the rise of human and algorithmic curation and aggregation has changed the news and affected the U.S. and democracy.

Peter Nickas is a breaking news reporter for the Chicago Tribune. His reporting focuses on violence and its effects on individuals and communities. He has written about the death of four young members; efforts of two former gang rivals to bring peace to their neighborhood; and candid observations by city police officers about their work. Nickas previously worked for the Times of Northwest Indiana and the Casper Star-Tribune. He is studying the effects of trauma on children and how to use that knowledge to inform editorial decisions and make violence coverage more accessible to readers.

Yoshihiko Nozai is a Tokyo-based economics reporter for Bloomberg News. He specializes in covering government and central banks in the Japanese economy and has also covered issues of defense and military spending, government bonds and stocks. Some of his stories have been published in Bloomberg Businessweek. He joined Bloomberg in 2009 after five years as a reporter at The Herald, a daily in Everett, Washington, where he covered various topics including local politics and a prison complex. He is researching depopulation and its effects on communities. He has written about community, He has worked for the Times of Northwest Indiana and the Casper Star-Tribune. He is studying the effects of trauma on children and how to use that knowledge to inform editorial decisions and make violence coverage more accessible to readers.

Lauren N. Pérez Sánchez is an investigative reporter and editor from Puerto Rico who covers local government and its effects on his home country. Since then, he has produced several multimedia projects including the HBO documentary special “Dope Sick Love” and the TV series “Off the Wall,” about a National Guard unit deployed to Iraq. He has covered the earthquake in Haiti, cartel violence in Mexico, the youth refugee crisis in Egypt and the war on extremism in Africa and the Middle East. He is studying the effects of trauma and mental and emotional illness on rates of poverty and violence in America.

Afsin Yurdakul is an anchor and correspondent at Turkey’s Habertürk news channel, where she hosts a daily news program and is a regular contributor on current affairs. She previously was the national news correspondent for CNN and has reported extensively on the Syrian refugee crisis. Yurdakul previously wrote about the Middle East for publications including Foreign Policy and The New Republic. She is studying the impact of the Syrian refugee crisis on Turkey and other host nations, focusing on what they can do to support the economic and social integration of refugees. She is recipient of the first Robert L. Long Nieman Fellowship for Turkish journalists.

Matthew Teague is a correspondent who has contributed to The Guardian, National Geographic, The Atlantic, Sports Illustrated and Esquire. He has worked in dozens of countries, from Afghanistan and Sri Lanka to China and Northern Ireland. His writing has been included in “Best American Travel Writing,” “Best American Crime Writing,” “Best American Sports Writing” and “Don’t Quit Your Day Job: Acclaimed Authors and the Day Jobs They Quit.” He lives and works in Florence, Alabama. He is studying the emerging interdependence of faith and politics in the United States, and how journalists can best understand and cover it.
Shaul Amsterdamski is a Colombian-American documentary photographer who has chronicled human rights and conflict stories in Colombia, Venezuela and Central America. He is a regular contributor to the New York Times and National Geographic. Since 2014, he has been reporting on the use of child soldiers by illegal armed groups in Colombia, the peace agreement between the Colombian government and FARC, and most recently, the reintegration of former fighters into Colombian society. He is studying how the impact photography can have on reconciliation in post-conflict societies and how visual storytelling can engage citizens in the aftermath of violence.

Samantha Appleton serves as the editorial director of digital and social media at Bellingham, Chandler's oldest daily newspaper, and the first-ever editorial development team at a newspaper that works with new digital storytelling formats and platforms. She previously was the editorial lead at creating ALT.dk, the largest network of lifestyle websites and blogs, focusing on financial stories to a broad audience. She has covered the conflicts in Iraq, the rise of nationalism and populist forces in Europe, the collapse of an extractive economy. She is studying how metrics and forms of digital storytelling can deliver complex financial stories to a broad audience.

Anita Butler is the deputy editor of The Boston Globe’s news department and has been part of the newspaper’s digital reinvention. She was an editor on the Spotlight series that exposed the sexual predations of the Catholic Church. Butler went on to lead the team that won a 2014 Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Boston Marathon bombings. Previously, Butler worked at The Baltimore Sun, the Los Angeles Times and The Hartford Courant. She is studying change management and design thinking to learn how newsroom culture can become more dynamic.

Mea Dolos de Jong is a documentary filmmaker from the Netherlands. Her first film, “If Mama Ain’t Happy, Nobody’s Happy,” received critical acclaim and was shown worldwide. Since then, her films have been screened at international festivals, by traditional broadcasters and, increasingly, online. She explores reporting from small human-interest stories to politics. Variety chose her as one of the top 10 European filmmakers to watch. She is studying the rules for audiovisual journalism and storytelling online.

Mattia Ferraresi is the U.S. correspondent for the Italian newspaper Il Foglio and covers a wide range of topics, from politics to culture. His work has appeared in Panorama magazine, the Italian editorials of Vanity Fair and Rolling Stone and other outlets. He is the author of five books including “La Fede di Trump” (“Trump Fever”), the first extended analysis of Donald Trump’s life to be published in Italy. His latest book is a reflection on the relationship between non-fiction and fiction. He is studying the roots of American liberalism and its disconnects, from the postwar consensus to the current era marked by the global resurgence of nationalism and populist forces.

Kaeti Hinck is an editor at The Washington Post, where she leads a team of visual journalists and developers who work with some of the Post’s most ambitious projects. Hinck has uncovered deception by the utility industry, misuse of political accounts, corruption in the governor’s office and administrative neglect of the state’s most fragile populations. She has shared her stories on NPR, the AP, she worked as a freelance multimedia project. She loves pop culture, arts and entertainment and has laughed loudly on NPR’s Pop Culture Happy Hour and Facebook Live segments. She sings show tunes, dances digitally and takes acting and improv classes. Becker grew up in West Virginia and worked as a radio producer in Rhode Island and Israel before joining WNYM. One of three finalists, Abrams Nieman Fellow for Local Investigative Journalism. Becker is a visual journalist who is studying the power of visual communication, technology and design in newsrooms. She is researching how neuroscience and psychology can inform the digital news ecosystem and reshape approaches to product design, visual journalism and trust.

Mary Ellen Klas is the capital bureau chief for the Miami Herald in Tallahassee, Florida, where she covers the Florida legislature and focuses on enterprise and ambitious projects, including The Independent and The Associated Press. She was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Investigative Reporting in 2019. Klas has covered the Florida state’s most fragile populations, cronyism in the governor’s office and administrative neglect of the state’s most fragile populations. She has shared her stories on NPR, the AP, she worked as a freelance multimedia project. She makes citizens engage in the aftermath of conflict, inequality and injustice on Myanmar and the surrounding region.

Jonathan Jackson is a co-founder and former head of corporate brand at Blavatnik Inc., the largest media company for black millennials, which maintains five unique sites covering travel, lifestyle, technology and culture. At Blavatnik, he oversees community engagement, strategic partnerships and brand initiatives to help media clients and agencies better serve their audiences and engage more authentically as culture. As the 2019 Nieman Fellow in Journalism Innovation, he is studying new ways to measure black cultural influence in the U.S. and abroad, including its effects on media and advertising.

Ull Köppen is head of data journalism at the German public broadcaster Bayerischer Rundfunk (BR). She is a co-founder of the German school of data journalists, coders and designers specializing in developing new data stories, interactive storytelling and experimentation with new research methods such as bots and machine learning. She is a founding member of butterfly, a group dedicated to slow journalism whose projects include reporting done with victims of Turkey’s clampdown on press freedom. She is studying how coding and automation can improve journalism by enabling analysis of algorithms and machine bias within interdisciplinary newsrooms.