



ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020





RISJ AT A GLANCE

2019-2020

JOURNALIST PROGRAMMES

21 Journalist Fellows

15 Summer School
Participants

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

55 Forum Participants
(Invitation-only)

34 Open Admission
Participants

RESEARCH and PUBLICATIONS

30 RISJ Publications

19 Outside Publications

EVENTS

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PREVIOUS PAGE: A view shows crosses and balloons placed by members of the NGO Rio de Paz in tribute to the 100,000 victims of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in the country, at the Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil August 8, 2020. REUTERS/Ricardo Moraes

ABOVE: An Iraqi female demonstrator takes part in ongoing anti-government protests in Baghdad, Iraq November 1, 2019. REUTERS/Ahmed Jadallah

FRONT COVER: A photographer runs amid tear gas as demonstrations continue following the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, U.S. May 30, 2020. REUTERS/Carlos Barria



■ PREFACE

ALAN RUSBRIDGER CHAIR · RISJ STEERING COMMITTEE



Journalism, if we didn't know it before, is a matter of life and death.

Of course, we have long recognised that journalism is one of those rare callings where its practitioners are too often called upon to risk their lives in order to do their jobs. As I write – in mid-September 2020 – 17 journalists have been killed in the course of trying to keep communities informed. Countless more have been imprisoned, threatened, silenced or pushed out of work.

But with the sudden outbreak of COVID-19 in 2020 another truth dawned: that reliable, trusted, truthful, timely and accessible information was almost the most important key to how societies reacted to this new, grim, global pandemic. Lives depended on the words journalists wrote; the numbers they crunched; how well they understood and could communicate the science.

COVID-19 has, again at the time of writing, killed nearly a million people worldwide. But it has also accelerated the already menacing trends in media – closing titles, depressing revenues, speeding up the switch to digital, throwing thousands out of work.

Throughout all this RISJ has been an ever more important point of reference. An ever more sought after source of research, foresight, insight and wisdom. An ever more treasured place of assembly for journalists the world over to come and think, re-think, research, engage, share and debate. A sanctuary for some – literally fleeing persecution and jeopardy. A place of renewal and re-energising for others.

Oxford University has led the way in its medical responses to COVID-19. RISJ has been a world leader in analysing how well journalism has played its part in this crisis. The question of how journalism can find a sustainable model for trusted public service information is an ever more burning one. RISJ is producing world-leading research, backed by the sharing of practical experience and amplified by a communications team which is spreading the word of our work ever more broadly.

I am so proud of the team that is led by Rasmus – and so grateful to our supporters and sponsors for their commitment to the work we are doing.

ANTONIO ZAPPULLA CEO · THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



Never has the paradox which defines the journalism profession today been more acute.

On the one hand, the scale, pace and devastation of the current global health emergency has driven unprecedented demand for access to trusted, accurate and fair information. On the other, one of the most catastrophic consequences of the pandemic is that it is threatening independent journalism – from business operations to press freedoms – in new and dangerous ways.

Impartial and quality journalism through a free, vibrant and thriving news media industry is more important than ever. Journalism excellence cuts through misinformation and disinformation, provides life-saving public guidance, and holds power to account. Without it, we weaken the world's defences against one of the biggest threats to humanity in generations.

But despite the evident increased need and thirst for news, COVID-19 has put paid to many publications reliant on subscriptions or advertising – revenues that have simply evaporated. Traditional news media, particularly local news outlets, are increasingly at risk. Those hit hardest will inevitably be in countries where resources are most scarce and the economic downturn most severe.

Separately, it is clear that some nefarious governments are taking advantage of the pandemic to instigate measures – on a sliding scale of severity – that place restrictions on news coverage, either to shut down criticism of policy or leadership, or to seize political power.

The long-term consequences of suppressing independent journalism will significantly erode civil liberties.

At the Thomson Reuters Foundation, we believe that the media is a crucial pillar of any free, fair and informed society. Central to our work in advancing media freedom is strengthening the future of journalism. We are proud to be core funders of RISJ, one of the world's most powerful and respected centres producing high-impact research that empowers journalists to navigate the increasingly complex and disrupted media landscape. Its vital contribution to the news ecosystem continues to drive journalism excellence worldwide.

As the pandemic surges, so too do our efforts in protecting free and impartial media, the very cornerstone of thriving democracies. Lives depend upon it.

■ DIRECTOR'S REPORT

RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN



2020 has been a reminder of the power, perils, and promise of professional journalism.

Every day across the world, we have been reminded of the power of independent reporting as journalists have chronicled the spread and impact of the coronavirus pandemic, and investigated the ways in which governments have handled it – always imperfectly, often clumsily, in some cases as a cover for self-interested agendas, including further attacks on independent news media who dare expose them and hold them to account.

We have also been reminded that journalism itself is an imperfect endeavour. Important reporting on the crisis has sometimes gone hand in hand with amplification of false and misleading statements from prominent politicians, bloviating pundits, and other public figures. We have also seen numerous reminders of how much journalism continues to present the world through a set of racist, sexist, classist, and other stereotypes and thus naturalise and reinforce many forms of oppression and structural inequality.

At the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism (RISJ), we are committed to the timeless journalistic aspiration of seeking truth and reporting it, as well as the ongoing work of remaking the profession and the organisations that enable it. We don't think journalism is perfect. We don't believe it ever was or will be. But we believe in the power of journalism, are conscious of the perils, and work with journalists, editors, news media executives, and others from across the world to try to help each of them think through – from their own experience, in their own context, and on the basis of their own personal hopes and professional aspirations – how they think we can realise its promise in the future.

We do that through our journalist programmes, through our leadership programmes, and through our research programmes, as well as all the effort that goes into bringing journalists from across the globe to our work and our work to journalists worldwide. I am proud of how everyone at the Reuters Institute has worked together to do that every day throughout 2019–2020, before and during the pandemic, in ways that continue to grow our community and engage with more journalists across the globe so we can explore the future of journalism together.



ABOVE: A double rainbow is seen above a woman holding an umbrella and selling snacks along the road in Siaya county, Kenya May 3, 2020. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoy

■ JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

MEERA SELVA DIRECTOR, JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



The Journalist Fellowship is about bringing ambitious, high minded journalists from all corners of the world to come to Oxford to meet the challenges facing the industry head on.

This year, they have met some of the best editors and news media executives in the world, from Dorothy Byrne from Channel 4 News to Stephen Dunbar-Johnson, President, International of the *New York Times*, and have taken deep dives into issues of press freedom, digital disruption, audience engagement, newsroom diversity and revenue models.

It was also a year when we decided to put the journalist fellows themselves on stage, literally and figuratively. The journalist fellows pulled together a Live Journalism show at the Royal Society in London in December showcasing their work and the best of journalism from around the world. And in February, our fellows held a seminar series 'Notes from the Frontline' about covering the Hong Kong protests, maintaining independent journalism in Jair Bolsonaro's Brazil and dealing with censorship and pressure in Russia and Ukraine.

And then we went into lockdown. The journalists due to finish their fellowships brought flights forward and left. The rest remained in their Oxford lodgings as we moved the fellowship online. In the first bewildering weeks of the pandemic we organised public webinars with Trudie Lang, a professor of Global Health Research at Green Templeton College, and Peter Drobac, a global health expert at the Saïd Business School, to kick start discussions on how to report on COVID-19 responsibly and effectively.

It was obvious that while it was impossible to meet in person, journalists still needed to talk to each other. We turned the fellowship digital, and invited all fellows from this academic year, including the ones who had completed their fellowships and the ones who had to postpone plans to come to Oxford, to join in our webinars, reading groups and discussions online.

I am incredibly proud the way this year's fellows rallied to support each other, and to join us in talking about the future of journalism, even as they faced unprecedented challenges in their professional lives. And in turn they have gained a huge sense of community, from Oxford, from Green Templeton College, and from all the sponsors who made the fellowship possible.

Thank you all.

JOURNALIST FELLOWS 2019-2020



Adesola Afolabi

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Nigeria

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Head, Financial Desk, Businessnewscorp Ltd

SPONSOR: Wincott Foundation

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Journalism's Role in Improving Financial Literacy for the Poor



Nan Ama Agyemang Asante

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Ghana

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Co-host, Citi Breakfast show, Citi 97.3 FM

SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The Representation of Women in Political, Civic, and Media Spaces



Gulmira Amangalieva

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Russia

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Staff Correspondent, *Saratov Weekly Gazette*

SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: What does a Poor Russian Believe?



Kate Rebecca Bartlett

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Africa Correspondent, Deutsche Presse-Agentur

SPONSOR: Anglo American

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Populism, Fake News, and the South African Journalists Who Brought down a President



Saleh al Batati

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Yemen

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Stringer, *Wall Street Journal*

SPONSOR: Mona Megalli

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: International Media Coverage of Civilian Casualties in Yemen's Ongoing War



Daniel Clarke

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: *Newsnight* Editor, BBC

SPONSOR: BBC

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Vox Populi: How is the Public's Voice Represented in and by the Media Now?



Consuelo Dieguez

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Brazil

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Investigative Reporter, *Piaui* magazine

SPONSOR: Anglo American

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: What did the Press Miss about the Rise of the Populist Right?

■ FELLOWS' VOICES



Being in a group of journalists from the countries that I rarely meet people from showed journalism has no borders, no nationality, and no religion.

DARKHAN UMIRBEKOV



It's such a privilege to be surrounded by brilliant minds having high-level conversations about the future of our industry.

DANIELA PINHEIRO



The fellowship poses key questions for our profession, teaching us about what is behind the scenes of impactful reporting to discover the power of live journalism.

MARYANA DRACH



I'm now more aware
of what makes a news
story more reachable
to a wider audience.

SALEH AL BATATI



An incredible
opportunity to connect
with like-minded
journalists from around
the world, to exchange
and debate the issues we
all face.

ZOE TODD

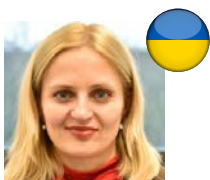
A life-changing experience
is not an exaggeration
– I'm going back to my
newsroom with a renewed
enthusiasm and an even
stronger belief in my
profession.

JONAS JUNGAR



Thanks to this fellowship,
I've got an international
professional family where
I can always share my
thoughts, concerns, and
good news.

GULMIRA AMANGELIEVA



Maryana Drach

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Ukraine

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Service Director, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty

SPONSOR: David Levy

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Ukraine Elections: How Social Media Shape the Public Discourse



Wei Du

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: China

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Northeast Asia Correspondent/Business Presenter, Channel NewsAsia

SPONSOR: Industry-funded

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Audio Report: Hong Kong Protests



Tejas Harad

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Copy Editor, *Economic and Political Weekly*

SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Caste is Not a Thing of the Past: Bahujan Stories from the Newsroom Floor



Jonas Jungar

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Finland

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Head of Quality Control and Audience Dialogue, Yle

SPONSOR: Industry-funded

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: A Finnish Case Study: Declining Trust in Media in a Traditionally Consensual and Stable Society



Nalan Kocak

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Turkey

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Managing Editor, English Edition, *Hurriyet Daily News*

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Turkish Media



Jaakko Lyytinen

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Finland

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Producer, *Black Box Live Journalism Show*, *Helsingin Sanomat*

SPONSOR: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Pulling Back the Curtain: How Live Journalism is Re-engaging News Audiences



Shazia Majid

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Norway

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Investigative Journalist, Verdens Gang (VG)

SPONSOR: : Fritt Ord

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Who Is the Ethnic Minority Woman in the News?



Camilla Nielsen

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Denmark

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Criminal Reporter, *Ekstra Bladet*

SPONSOR: JP/Politikens Hus

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to Report on Sexual Violence without Scarring Survivors or Scaring Readers



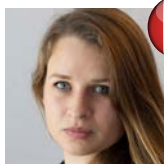
Daniela Pinheiro

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Brazil

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Former Editor-in-Chief, *Época* magazine

SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The Silent Majority and the Blindness of the Media. Trump, Brexit, Bolsonaro: Why Did They Win – and Why Did the Media Miss it?



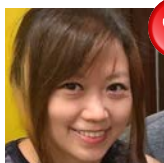
Zoe Todd

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Multimedia Journalist, Canadian Broadcasting Corporation

SPONSOR: Columbia University

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Pop-up Journalism: The CBC's Low-Budget Solution for Under-Reported Regions



Emily Tsang

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hong Kong

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Principal Reporter, *South China Morning Post*

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Hong Kong Newsroom and New Challenges



Kohei Tsuji

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: International News, NHK

SPONSOR: Industry-funded

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Podcasting and Audio News



Darkhan Umirbekov

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Kazakhstan

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Chief Editor, *Egemen.kz*

SPONSOR: Columbia University

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Facebook's Role in Kazakh Civic Society



Philipp Wilhelmer

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Austria

POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Editor, Leading Contributor on Media Topics *Kurier*, APA

SPONSOR: Austria Press Association (APA)

RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to Start a Radical New Newsroom Culture of Interaction in the Age of Transparency

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

FEDERICA CHERUBINI HEAD OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



In the ever-transforming media landscape, editors, news managers, and media executives have had to adapt to changes in audience behaviour, business, and technology – all while covering the news and simultaneously reckoning with issues like diversity, inclusion, and change fatigue. Our leadership development programmes focus on ensuring that newsroom leaders face challenges and opportunities from a position of strength.

With our open-admission courses, bespoke events, and private off-the-record discussions, we equip the current and next generations of newsroom leaders with the skills, evidence-based research, experience, and network they need to shape the future of journalism and build a better and more sustainable future for the industry. Great journalism and great news media need great leaders across editorial, business, product, and more.

Throughout the year, we hosted discussions with Editors-in-Chief, CEOs, public service heads of news, leaders of digital-born organisations, and colleagues who assumed new leadership positions, gathering in person and digitally, when the COVID-19 pandemic forced us to do so.

In April, I joined RISJ as the new Head of Leadership Development. Since then I've worked on boosting our regular courses and strengthening our digital offerings to allow us to quickly adapt to the world pandemic scenario. In the year ahead we will focus on expanding programming, with diversity and inclusion as top priorities to be addressed and discussed, and on fostering our community, a diverse group of bright innovators organised around common areas of expertise and shared challenges.



LEADING NEWSROOM CHANGE

“ *Inspiring and relevant – a perfect mix between research and takeaways.* ”

Morten Stamm Mikkelsen
Managing editor at P4 Midt/Vest

“ *The entire thing was challenging and informative - I reference this work constantly.* ”

Mark Bowers
Head of Insights and Analytics,
Yahoo News and HuffPost

“ *The best part is the interaction with the other participants. The exchange of problems, answers, and situations is very enriching.* ”

Geert Dewaele
Editor-in-Chief Video, News City

FUTURE LEADERS IN NEWS

“ *Excellent to have time out and to finally have an opportunity to talk about leadership qualities and how to avoid burnout. Great to have thinking and talking time. And listening time. The importance of clarity in message.* ”

Bernadette Kitterick
Senior Journalist, UK Newsgathering
Planning, BBC

“ *Hugely helpful and insightful.* ”

Vanessa Barford
Senior Journalist, UK Online, BBC

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

RICHARD FLETCHER SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW



How do people use news?
How are news organisations
adapting to a changing media
environment? How can we
understand the impact of digital
media? And how have all of
these issues been shaped by the
coronavirus pandemic?

These are some of the key issues we deal with in our research, work that provides timely, accessible, and evidence-based independent analysis of issues facing journalism and news media around the world, through our series of RISJ publications, as well as more specialised academic articles and book-length treatments of important topics.

Our publications include our flagship *Digital News Report*, covering 40 markets globally in 2020, including Kenya and the Philippines for the first time, as well as other work looking at journalism and news media across the world.

In addition to informing decision-making by journalists and in newsrooms, our work is part of policy and public debates. We have presented our research privately and publicly at numerous high-level gatherings, it has featured in thousands of news articles, and it is cited by hundreds of researchers.

In 2019/2020, we published several dozen reports, articles, and books. Most are freely available on our website, and a sample is included on the following pages.

ABOVE: An anti-government protester holding a banner attends a lunchtime protest in Hong Kong, China January 6, 2020. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar.

RISJ REPORTS (selected)

Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2020

Nic Newman, Richard Fletcher, Anne Schulz, Simge Andi, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSORS: BBC News, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, the Dutch Media Authority (CvdM), Centre d'études sur les médias, Québec, Edelman, Fritt Ord Foundation, Google News Initiative, Hans-Bredow-Institut, Korea Press Foundation, Media Industry Research Foundation of Finland, Ofcom, Open Society Foundations, Roskilde University, University of Canberra, University of Navarra.

A Mile Wide, an Inch Deep: Online News and Media Use in the 2019 UK General Election

Richard Fletcher, Nic Newman, Anne Schulz

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

Journalism, Media, and Technology Trends and Predictions 2020

Nic Newman

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

How Young People Consume News and the Implications for Mainstream Media

Flamingo

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

BELOW: Demonstrators attend a protest rally in reaction to the murder of Slovak investigative reporter Jan Kuciak and his fiancée Martina Kusnirova, in Bratislava, Slovakia, March 16, 2018. REUTERS/David W. Cerny.



Navigating the 'Infodemic': How People in Six Countries Access and Rate News and Information about Coronavirus

Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Richard Fletcher, Nic Newman, J. Scott Brennan, Philip N. Howard

SPONSOR: Oxford Martin School Programme on Misinformation, Science, and Media

What Can be Done? Digital Media Policy Options for Strengthening European Democracy

Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Robert Gorwa, Madeleine de Cock Buning

SPONSOR: Paul Kumleben

Old, Educated, and Politically Diverse: The Audience of Public Service News

Anne Schulz, David A. L. Levy, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Yle



RISJ FACTSHEETS (selected)

Volume and Patterns of Toxicity in Social Media Conversations during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Sílvia Majó-Vázquez, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Joan Verdú, Nandan Rao, Manlio de Domenico, Omiros Papaspiliopoulos

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

Trust in UK Government and News Media COVID-19 Information Down, Concerns over Misinformation from Government and Politicians Up

Richard Fletcher, Antonis Kalogeropoulos, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Nuffield Foundation UK COVID-19 News and Information Project

Are News Outlets Viewed in the Same Way by Experts and the Public? A Comparison across 23 European Countries

Anne Schulz, Richard Fletcher, Marina Popescu

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

Types, Sources, and Claims of COVID-19 Misinformation

J. Scott Brennan, Felix M. Simon, Philip N. Howard, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Oxford Martin School Programme on Misinformation, Science, and Media

Women and Leadership in the News Media 2020: Evidence from Ten Markets

Simge Andi, Meera Selva, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

ABOVE LEFT: A seagull carries a protective face mask at the port of Dover, Britain, August 11, 2020. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls.

ABOVE RIGHT: A video journalist wearing a protective mask uses a camera at Halim Perdanakusuma airport, following the outbreak of the coronavirus in China, in Jakarta, Indonesia, February 15, 2020. REUTERS/Willy Kurniawan.



RISJ ACADEMIC ARTICLES (selected)

'What to Expect When you're Expecting Robots: Futures, Expectations, and Pseudo-Artificial General Intelligence in UK News'

Brennen, J. S., Howard, P. N., Nielsen, R. K. 2020. *Journalism* 0(0). DOI: 10.1177/1464884920947535

'How Polarized are Online and Offline News Audiences? A Comparative Analysis of Twelve Countries'

Fletcher, R., Cornia, A., Nielsen, R. K. 2020. *International Journal of Press/Politics* 25(2), 169–95. DOI: 10.1177/1940161219892768

'Media Roles in the Online News Domain: Authorities and Emergent Audience Brokers'

Majó-Vázquez, S., Cardenal, A. S., Segarra, O., Colomer de Simón, P. 2020. *Media and Communication* 8(2), 98–111. DOI: 10.17645/mac.v8i2.2741

“The Media Covers up a Lot of Things”: Watchdog Ideals Meet Folk Theories of Journalism'

Palmer, R., Toff, B., Nielsen, R. K. 2020. *Journalism Studies* 0(0), DOI: 10.1080/1461670X.2020.1808516

Many RISJ publications are available for free download from our website. Hard copies of certain publications can be purchased via our partner publisher, Columbia University Press, Amazon, other booksellers, or the University of Oxford online store.

ABOVE: A man walks among debris at the Mudd neighbourhood, devastated after Hurricane Dorian hit the Abaco Islands in Marsh Harbour, Bahamas, September 6, 2019. REUTERS/Marco Bello.

COMMUNICATIONS

EDUARDO SUÁREZ HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS



It's been a year since I took on the role as Head of Communications at the Reuters Institute. Before I started, I explained that I saw my job as a way to bridge the gaps that separate academic researchers from practitioners, media owners from policy makers, journalists from the business side. Throughout my first year I've tried to keep that in mind while amplifying our work.

Here's what I think we've achieved so far.

We've redesigned our website to make it much cleaner, and more readable and mobile-friendly. Every new piece of research we publish is now readable on a mobile phone. Our factsheets and reports are now posted both as PDF and HTML. Outlines, references, and footnotes are much easier to navigate.

Not everyone can read a 14,000-word report so we've made sure our audience can engage with our findings in different formats: a thread, a short video, or a podcast episode. We've created hundreds of social-friendly charts featuring key findings from the outstanding work of our researchers. As a result, our social footprint has almost tripled from June 2019 to June 2020.

Our obsession is to reach a more global audience. Hence we've translated some of our research into Spanish, and we've also posted tweets in German, French, and Portuguese.

ABOVE: Flowers and candles are placed outside the building of Belarusian National State TV and Radio Company during a rally to protest against presidential election results and demand from state-run media objective reporting on the situation in the country, in Minsk, Belarus August 15, 2020. The placards read: "Show people the truth" (L) and "We won't forgive". REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko.

BELOW: Law enforcement officers detaining journalists who were on assignment are photographed by a Reuters photographer a moment before his detention, in Minsk, Belarus July 28, 2020. All members of the media were released after being brought to and questioned at a local police station. REUTERS/Vasily Fedosenko.



We've changed the layout of our weekly newsletter and made its content more global and diverse. We've amplified the weekly seminar series, 'The Business and Practice of Journalism' chaired by Meera Selva, and extended its impact before, during, and after the event.

As the pandemic hit, we focused on increasing our digital footprint. We created a webinar series so our global audience could engage with our researchers and we organised seven global launch events for this year's *Digital News Report* in partnership with respected companies and foundations around the world. We also created a podcast series hosted by our colleague Federica Cherubini and started publishing more original pieces, with a special focus on how COVID-19 is shaping our industry around the world.

RESEARCH WEBINARS (selected)

From the start of the lockdown in the UK we initiated a series of research webinars in order to maintain our outward-looking approach in the face of challenges to normal working conditions. Our research team and other colleagues shared their expert insights and explained findings from their newest publications. We opened these live webinars to the public via Zoom.

How People Get their News about Climate Change

Simge Andi, RISJ Research Fellow

News Audience Behaviour in Electoral Years: Evidence from the US, India, UK, Spain, and France

Sílvia Majó-Vázquez, RISJ Research Fellow

A Guide to Statistics for Journalists

Professor Denise Lievesley, Principal, Green Templeton College

Challenges and Opportunities of Public Service News

Anne Schulz, RISJ Research Fellow

RISJ EVENTS

RISJ hosts events, seminars, and publication launches all over the world. RISJ also convenes 'The Business and Practice of Journalism' seminar series at Green Templeton College as part of the Journalist Fellowship Programme. Here are some highlights from 2019/2020.

THE BUSINESS AND PRACTICE OF JOURNALISM SEMINARS (selected)



The State of Journalism

Dorothy Byrne, Head of News and Current Affairs, Channel 4 Television.



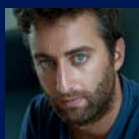
Increasing Women's Representation in the BBC

Ros Atkins, Presenter of Outside Source, BBC News; Project Director 50:50.



News in the Digital Age

Stephen Dunbar-Johnson, President, International, the *New York Times*.



Holding Power to Account

Matthew Caruana Galizia, Investigative Journalist.

OTHER EVENTS (selected)

Truth and Consequences: Harvey Weinstein, #MeToo, and the Future of Investigative Journalism

REUTERS MEMORIAL LECTURE 2020, LADY MARGARET HALL, OXFORD

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Rebecca Corbett**, Investigations Editor, the *New York Times*

PANEL: **Alan Rusbridger** (Chair), Chair, RISJ Steering Committee; **Helen Lewis**, Journalist, The Atlantic; **Javier Moreno**, Editor-in-Chief, *El País*.

Public Service News Forum

RISJ, OXFORD

An invitation-only gathering of public service news leaders from Europe, Australia, US, Japan, and Canada. This forum provides an invaluable, off-the-record space to review strategies, share experiences of tackling digital transitions, and gather insights and lessons from peers.

News Innovation Forum

RISJ, OXFORD

An exclusive, off-the-record gathering of global leaders in news innovation for a conversation on key issues, exchange of ideas, and discussions of new technologies and their potential for the news industry, with 30 leaders in digital news from across Asia, Europe, and North America.



©Photographers Workshop



©Photographers Workshop



©JuliaMasseyStewart



©JuliaMasseyStewart





Digital News Forum

RISJ, OXFORD

An invitation-only, off-the-record discussion with a distinguished group of 14 founders, Editors-in-Chief, and senior executives of digital-born news organisations to learn from RISJ research and to share their experience about how their organisations are confronting the key challenges of digital transformation.

Editor-in-Chief and CEO Forum

RISJ, OXFORD

An invitation-only, off-the-record discussion with a distinguished group of 12 news industry leaders, Editors-in-Chief, and CEOs to learn from RISJ research and to share their experience about how their organisations are confronting the key challenges of digital transformation.

Misinformation on Markets and Media

DAVOS, SWITZERLAND

Director of RISJ **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen** took part in a panel discussion hosted by Thomson Reuters at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

PANEL: **Alessandra Galloni** (Chair), journalist; **Jimmy Wales**, Founder of Wikipedia; **Helen Clark**, former PM of New Zealand; **Hao Li**, CEO and Co-Founder, Pinscreen; **Rajnish Kumar**, Chairman, State Bank of India.

Practical and Policy Responses to Misinformation

An invitation-only, off-the-record workshop to review practical responses to problems of disinformation from technology companies and policy responses from liberal democracies. Attended by representatives from governments, international organisations, and technology companies, and by academics, it was organised by the 'Misinformation, Science, and Media' project run by the Oxford Internet Institute and the RISJ and supported by the Oxford Martin School.

Brexit Conference

BROADWAY HOUSE, LONDON

An open, one-day conference organised in partnership with the UK in a Changing Europe think tank.

SPEAKERS: **Professor Anand Menon**, Professor of European Politics and Foreign Affairs at King's College London; **David Bond**, *Financial Times*; **Damian Collins** MP, Chair of Culture, Media, and Sport Committee.

Rethinking Journalism Inside and Outside the Newsroom

JOURNALIST FELLOWS' SYMPOSIUM, ROYAL SOCIETY, LONDON

Presentations and discussions of global issues from our international Journalist Fellows.

Journalist Summer School

RISJ, OXFORD

15 mid-career journalists attended five days of workshops, seminars, and social activities. Speakers: **Meera Selva**, Director, Journalist Fellowship Programme, RISJ; **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, RISJ; **Eduardo Suárez**, Head of Communications, RISJ; **Anne Schulz**, Research Fellow, RISJ; **Alan Rusbridger**, Chair, RISJ Steering Committee; **Jodi Ginsberg**, CEO, Index on Censorship.

REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORT 2020 LAUNCH EVENTS



UK launch, in partnership with Edelman

SPEAKERS: **Ed Williams** (Chair), President and CEO, Edelman EMEA; **Nic Newman**, Senior Research Associate, RISJ; **Emma Tucker**, Editor, *The Sunday Times*; **Deborah Turness**, President, NBC News International; **James Mitchinson**, Editor, *Yorkshire Post*.



US launch, in partnership with Reuters

SPEAKERS: **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, RISJ; **Michael Friedenberg**, President, Reuters; **Lauren Williams**, SVP and Editor-in-Chief, Vox.com; **Antonio Zappulla**, CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundation.



Latin America launch, in partnership with Fundación Gabo

SPEAKERS: **Eduardo Suárez** (Chair), Head of Communications, RISJ; **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, RISJ; **Natalia Viana**, Founder, Agência Pública; **María Teresa Ronderos**, Founder, CLIP; **Javier Moreno**, Editor-in-Chief, *El País*.



Global launch, in partnership with WAN-IFRA

SPEAKERS: **Ritu Kapur** (Chair), Founder and CEO, The Quint; **Nic Newman**, Senior Research Associate, RISJ; **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, RISJ.





Asia-Pacific launch, in partnership with Splice



SPEAKERS: **Alan Soon** (Chair), Co-founder, Splice; **Nic Newman**, Senior Research Associate, RISJ; **Ying Chan**, journalist and academic; **Miriam Grace Go**, journalist, Rappler.



India launch, in partnership with Newslaundry



SPEAKERS: **Abhinandan Sekhri** (Chair), co-founder and CEO, Newslaundry; **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, RISJ; **Anant Goenka**, Executive Director, the *Indian Express*; **Avinash Pandey**, CEO, ABP News Network; **Ritu Kapur**, Founder and CEO, The Quint.



Africa launch, in partnership with Code for Africa



SPEAKERS: **Chris Roper** (Chair), Code for Africa; **Nic Newman**, Senior Research Associate, RISJ; **Mahlatse Mahlase**, South African National Editors Forum; **Purity Mukami**, Africa Uncensored.



ABOUT US

Advisory Board

The RISJ Advisory Board gives input and suggestions for our work. It comprises high-profile international figures from news organisations, technology companies, media policymaking, and the academy.

Chair: **The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes**, CH, Chancellor of the University of Oxford

Stephen Ansolabehere, Professor of Government, Harvard University

Marty Baron, Executive Editor, *Washington Post*

Wolfgang Blau, President, International and Chief Operating Officer, Condé Nast

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Maria Ressa, Co-founder, Rappler

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Vivian Schiller, Head of Civil Foundation

Mark Thompson, former President and CEO, New York Times Company and former Director General of the BBC

Steering Committee

The RISJ Steering Committee has general oversight of the Institute, its programme of activities and its strategy. The RISJ Director is accountable to the Steering Committee and reports to the Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford.

Chair: **Alan Rusbridger**, Principal, Lady Margaret Hall

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Professor Louise Fawcett, Head of Dept of Politics and International Relations, Oxford

Dr Richard Fletcher, Senior Research Fellow, RISJ

Michael Friedenberg, President, Reuters News

Professor Timothy Garton Ash, Professor of European Studies, St Antony's College, Oxford

Kate Hanneford-Smith, Director of Operations, RISJ

Catherine Lieben, Head of Administration and Finance, Dept of Politics and International Relations, Oxford

Helen Lewis, staff writer, *The Atlantic*

Professor Denise Lievesley, CBE, Principal, Green Templeton College

Geert Linnebank, Trustee of the Thomson Reuters Foundation and non-executive director at ITN

Professor Neil MacFarlane, Lester B Pearson Professor of International Relations, Oxford

Professor Gina Neff, Associate Professor, Oxford Internet Institute

Professor Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Director, RISJ

Kate O'Regan, Director, Bonavero Institute of Human Rights, Oxford

John Pullman, Global Head, Video and Pictures, Thomson Reuters

Meera Selva, Director of the Journalist Fellowship Programme, RISJ

Eduardo Suárez, Head of Communications, RISJ

Antonio Zappulla, CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundation

Special thanks to former Steering Committee members Louise Fawcett, Denise Lievesley and Neil MacFarlane for their support and guidance.

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(See RISJ website for full list of all research associates.)

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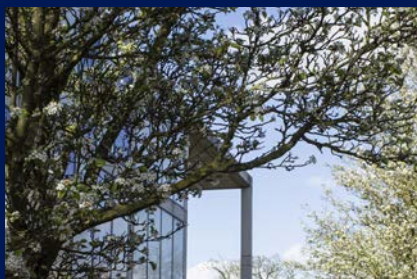
RISJ receives core funding from the Thomson Reuters Foundation.



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DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

RISJ is part of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, and the Head of Department, Professor Louise Fawcett, has served on our Steering Committee.



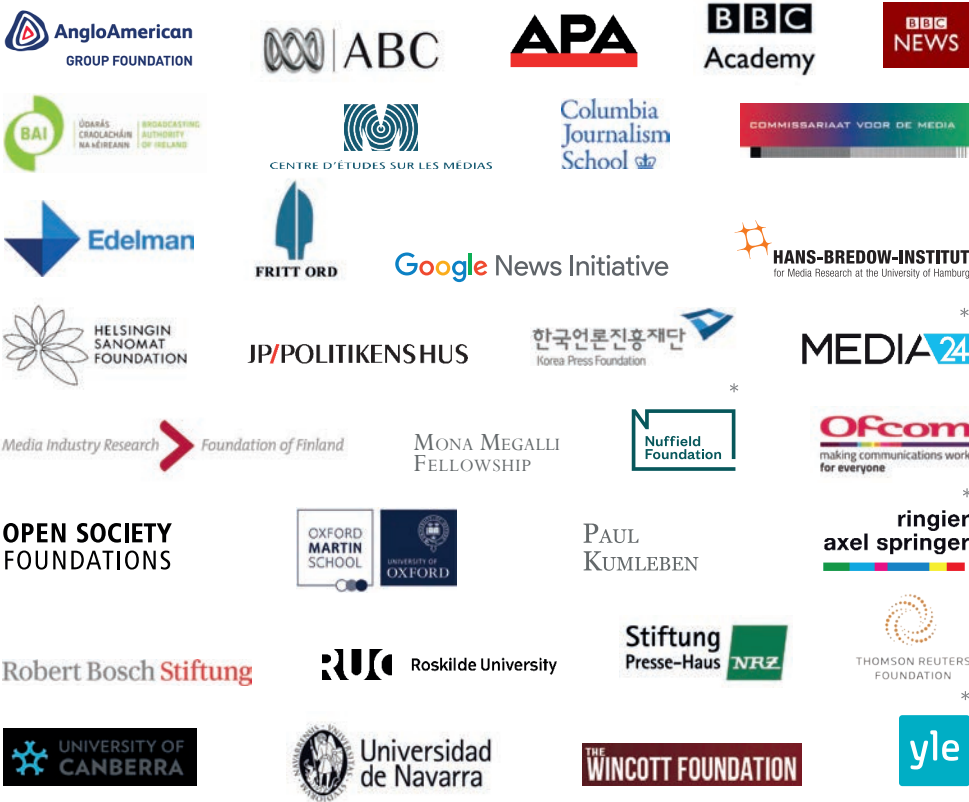
GREEN TEMPLETON COLLEGE

RISJ is also affiliated with Green Templeton College, as are all our journalist fellows and researchers, and we host many events at the college. Principal Professor Denise Lievesley has served on our Steering Committee.



In addition we also receive grants, sponsorship, and donations and gifts in kind to support our research projects, events, publications, and the Journalist Fellowship Programme. We are most grateful for the generous support of all our benefactors in 2019/2020. Our total turnover in 2019/2020 was approximately £3.1 million. Further details on our funding can be found on our website, and all major new grants are announced there, including a grant from the Facebook Journalism Project for work that began in September 2020 and thus falls outside this Annual Report, which covers the period from September 2019 to August 2020. *New sponsors for this year are indicated below with an asterisk.*

Breakdown of funding sources





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