

# Annual Report 2022/2023





## RISJ at a Glance 2022/2023

### JOURNALIST PROGRAMMES

28 Journalist Fellows

200 Members of the Oxford Climate Journalism Network

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

129 Forum Participants (invitation-only)

56 Open Admission Participants

65 Bespoke Programme Participants

### RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

10 RISJ Publications

8 Outside Publications

### EDITORIAL

121 Original journalism pieces on the website

50 Countries covered in these pieces

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PREVIOUS PAGE: A rickshaw puller enjoys rain during monsoon in Dhaka, Bangladesh, September 8, 2022. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain.

ABOVE: A rose flower is seen in front of the regional council building destroyed by a Russian missile strike in Mykolaiv, Ukraine October 27, 2022. REUTERS/Valentyn Ogirenko.

FRONT COVER: A woman wades through chest-deep flood after Super Typhoon Noru, in San Idefonso, Bulacan province, Philippines, September 26, 2022. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez.

## ● Preface

**ALAN RUSBRIDGER** CHAIR · RISJ STEERING COMMITTEE



**I suspect – no, I know – that when it was first suggested that Oxford University might host a new institute for the study of journalism there was much tut-tutting in the senior common rooms. Academics do not, by and large, hold journalists in high esteem. What was there to study?**

In its 17 years of life, the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has repeatedly provided multiple answers to that question – and the past year was no exception. Even the most sceptical fellow must by now surely be convinced.

From its modest base in Norham Gardens, the Institute explores, researches, argues, convenes, teaches, experiments, and publishes. Its impact is truly global. Its reputation has grown. Its research papers are required reading for anyone in the industry, as well as academia. It is, in short, in rude health.

This year we welcomed 28 Journalist Fellows from 24 different countries, including a blind

fellow, our first non-binary fellow, and colleagues under pressure from Ukraine and Hong Kong.

Our flagship public-facing seminar series dealt with some of the most pressing issues in journalism, from TikTok and covering climate and corruption, to crowdfunding and artificial intelligence. This year we've reached an audience of more than 83,000 viewers.

Our Oxford Climate Journalism Network has grown into a community of 430 journalists and editors from over 100 countries. They've joined dozens of seminars by leading scientists, and skills workshops to improve the future of climate reporting. In April many of them took part in our first alumni online event.

We've hosted 250 participants from 49 countries in our 23 leadership development programmes, online or in-person, in Oxford or abroad.

Our research team published more than a dozen reports, articles, and books, including new instalments of the Trust in News Project, our yearly reports on journalism trends and changing newsrooms, research on how audiences follow climate news, and our usual factsheets on race and women in leadership in news.

We continued to increase our reach in all our digital channels this year. Our newsletters are now sent to more than 25,000 people, the traffic to our website increased by 37%, and almost 80,000 now follow our Twitter accounts.

It has, then, been a year of intense and important activity in Norham Gardens – enough to convince even the most sceptical of doubters. We are immensely proud of the small and dedicated team that has made the RISJ such an important centre of research and influence.

**ANTONIO ZAPPULLA** CEO · THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



**Journalism is a public good. When shaped by transparency, accountability, and public interest, journalism becomes an essential cornerstone of democracy. It holds governments and businesses to account, it empowers citizens to make better decisions for themselves and their communities, and it leads to more inclusive and sustainable societies – where opinions are not silenced and human rights are upheld.**

At the Thomson Reuters Foundation, our work is propelled by the belief that societies should be free, fair, and informed. Through media and legal initiatives, we advance media freedom, foster more inclusive economies, and raise awareness of human rights. Our annual grant to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford plays a key role in the fulfilment of our mission.

This year marks a significant milestone, as we celebrate 40 years of the Thomson

Reuters Foundation Fellowship at the Reuters Institute. Over the past four decades, the Foundation has sponsored over 200 fellows from more than 60 countries, providing journalists with unparalleled opportunities to come to Oxford and learn about key issues affecting the industry, undertake research projects, and form lasting relationships with their peers.

Capacity-building programmes that empower journalists are needed more than ever. We are witnessing a global decline in trust, deepening polarisation, and calculated efforts to silence independent journalism – from 'lawfare' and cybercrime to attacks aimed at undermining the sustainability and credibility of reputable news outlets.

The news industry has weathered turbulent times in the recent past, demonstrating innovation and resilience in response to the changes in news consumption and the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, advances in AI technology are ushering in new challenges for the profession. From copyright to potential job losses to the dissemination of inaccurate and misleading content, unregulated generative AI risks undermining the very foundations of independent news if human oversight is discounted.

Guided by its mission to strengthen the future of the profession, the Reuters Institute continues to play an integral role in navigating journalists through change. The Thomson Reuters Foundation is proud to support the Institute's world-renowned fellowship, its research, and its events, all of which are vital to building an improved and more sustainable journalism for tomorrow.

## ● Director's Report

RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN



**Better-informed people are better able to make decisions, based on their own ideals, interests, and situations.**

This belief is fundamental to journalism's commitment to seeking truth and reporting it. And it is fundamental to our work at the Reuters Institute.

Through our journalist programmes, through our leadership programmes, and through our research, as well as through all the channels we use to share our work and engage with people across the world, it underlies what we do.

We do not tell people how to do their jobs. But we know that they will be better able to do their job if they benefit from frank conversations with peers, a chance to talk with some of the most inspiring people in the industry, and relevant research. Irrespective of whether the discussions or research findings are encouraging or sometimes of the more challenging sort, being better informed is preferable to the alternative.

Some of the ways in which we do our work – our editorial coverage of global journalism, our newsletter and social media channels, our online seminars, and our research publications – are available to everyone. But some of the most important ways in which we engage have always been more conversational and built around groups meeting in Oxford – our flagship journalist fellowship and most of our leadership development programmes.

These formats have many advantages in terms of creating a safe space where everyone can be open and honest. They also have their limits in terms of how many can realistically join.

To expand our work beyond these limitations, we have in recent years greatly expanded our offerings, while still maintaining a commitment to creating confidential community spaces for often challenging conversations. We have done this through both increased efforts to take our work on the road and increased online efforts through our leadership programmes, and especially with the very successful Oxford Climate Journalism Network.

These new, additional programmes have enabled us to move from hosting dozens of journalists, editors, and executives a year to hosting hundreds, and we hope to continue to expand all the different opportunities we can create for everyone in the industry interested in joining us in our mission to explore the future of journalism worldwide.

## ● Journalist Programmes

MITALI MUKHERJEE DIRECTOR · JOURNALIST PROGRAMMES



**The landscape for journalists remains grim and the backdrop challenging. Democratic backsliding, conflict-ridden geographies, and increasing disengagement with the news threaten both the safety of journalists and the future of journalism.**

As we negotiate these headwinds, a few imminent challenges lie ahead. Climate change is undeniably the biggest event unfolding before us. Newsrooms have moved from a 'reactionary' approach to thinking deeply about integrating climate change coverage into their reportage. I remain convinced that climate change is not a standalone beat or desk, but a lens that we must learn to apply to every story, whether it is about business, fashion, politics, or lifestyle.

In the face of that reality, the Oxford Climate Journalism Network has been a tremendous success. We are proud to have collaborated with more than 400 journalists and editors worldwide, engaged with senior newsroom

leaders to enhance their climate coverage, and produced in-house research on climate news engagement among audiences across eight countries. We are an extremely sought-after programme and our commitment to supporting journalists across the world on climate coverage issues will remain for the year ahead.

The Journalist Fellowship Programme remains an exceptional offering for outstanding journalists across the world. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to build a global network, to meet and interact with distinguished leaders and speakers, and to create projects of significance in the world's best university. Our programme is incredibly diverse and highly competitive.

Most importantly, the programme shines a light on the intensely difficult conditions in which journalists are working.

Another challenge journalists are unboxing is AI. While technology has been a powerful – and sometimes tricky – tool for journalists, AI may have the potential to transform how newsrooms work. Over the next few years, we intend to work closely with journalists to navigate the challenges and opportunities that AI presents. Through workshops, seminars, and individual projects, our goal is to build discourse around AI – from scaling expertise to highlighting the very real concerns around AI. Asking critical questions without fear or favour is, after all, what journalists must always do.

None of this would be possible without the support of our partners and community of allies. As we mark 40 years of the Journalist Fellowship programme, we have never been more certain of, or committed to, the vital role journalism plays in society.

## Journalist Fellowship Programme

CAITHLIN MERCER ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR · JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



The fellowship programme brings mid-career journalists from around the world to spend time in Oxford thinking about a project that might improve the ways we gather and distribute information. These are not academic projects; they are a collection of experiences, ideas, and tools that can be taken back into the newsroom to challenge the status quo.

I will remember this year's cohort of 28 fellows from 24 countries as The Challengers.

In Michaelmas term we were challenged by Johnny Cassidy, a blind fellow from the BBC, to rethink data visualisation that excludes the visually impaired. And we were challenged by TeShima Brennen, our first non-binary fellow, to rethink how we cover communities that have experienced violence.

In Hilary term we were challenged by Ronson Chan, returning to Hong Kong to face a criminal trial and possible imprisonment for failing to show his press pass quickly enough, to rethink the motives for our work. And we were challenged by the presence of both a fellow



from Ukraine, Olga Tokariuk, and a fellow from Russia, Natalia Zhdanova, to rethink how we separate the individual from the social conflict.

In Trinity term we were challenged with questions about outdated economic, journalistic, and productivity norms by our first Climate Fellows, sponsored by the Oxford Climate Journalism Network (OCJN).

In June, the BBC's Chief International Correspondent and senior presenter, Lyse Doucet, met with the fellows ahead of the receipt of her honorary degree from the University of Oxford, and challenged us to think of journalism as a community.

Above all, the term challenged us to remember that our job is not to serve the interests of the well-educated, or the rich, or the influential. We do this work to reflect the reality of the marginalised.

Newsrooms haven't always stayed true to that mission. Long may The Challengers continue to remind us of it.



PREVIOUS PAGE: Lyse Doucet with the journalist fellows.

BELOW LEFT: A girl looks out from a window of a shanty in Manila, Philippines, June 20, 2023. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez.

BELOW: Theopiste Maloko, 42, a local health official, and a nurse collect skin samples from Angelika Lijafu, 6, to test for monkeypox, at the Yalolia health centre, in Tshopo, Democratic Republic of Congo, October 3, 2022. REUTERS/Arlette Bashiz.



### THE GLOBAL JOURNALISM SEMINARS (selected)

Our flagship public-facing seminar series reached an audience of more than 83,000 viewers – a 176% increase year on year. We also hosted our first in-person public seminars since the pandemic, through partnerships with Saïd Business School, to host Nobel Prize-winning economist Joseph Stiglitz, and Blavatnik School of Government and the Chandler Sessions on Integrity and Corruption to host Pulitzer Prize-nominated *New York Times* journalist Jane Bradley.

We introduced a new opening video series, The Briefing, which includes poll results from fellows – a feature we plan to roll out to our alumni in the new year. Other guest highlights included:



#### Climate Journalism: Covering Pakistan's Flooding Crisis

Hamid Mir, host of *Capital Talk* on Geo TV, discussed the lengths he and his crew had to go to in covering Pakistan's historic flooding in October 2022, including recounting a chilling story of coming upon a prison entirely submerged in water.



#### Top Five Takes from the Washington Post's TikTok Experiment

Carmela Boykin, Associate Producer on the *Washington Post's* social media team, explained how a team of three is using humour, remixed music, and defined personal style to reach a new audience on short-video sharing platform, TikTok.



#### The Emotional Toll of Investigative Journalism

Investigative journalist and CEO of Africa Uncensored John-Allan Namu shared his personal lessons on how to protect your emotional wellbeing when working on dangerous stories. His advice included a call for editors to adopt a more protective role with their reporters.

## Journalist Fellows 2022/2023



**Brett Aresco**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA  
 POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Freelance journalist  
 SPONSOR: Columbia University School of Journalism  
 PROJECT TITLE: Crucial questions in the coverage of crypto



**Thu Thu Aung**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Myanmar  
 PLACE OF WORK: Reuters  
 POSITION AT WORK: Correspondent  
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Citizen journalism in post-coup Myanmar



**Ayen Bior**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA/Sudan  
 PLACE OF WORK: NPR  
 POSITION AT WORK: Producer  
 SPONSOR: Google News Initiative  
 PROJECT TITLE: Top lessons in safe coverage of South Sudan



**Bridget Brennan**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Australia  
 PLACE OF WORK: Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
 POSITION AT WORK: Indigenous Affairs Editor  
 SPONSOR: Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Building best practice to support First Nations journalists in Australia



**TeShima Brennen**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA  
 POSITION AT WORK: Documentary filmmaker  
 SPONSOR: Columbia University School of Journalism  
 PROJECT TITLE: Building trust with transgender communities



**Regine Cabato**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Philippines  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Washington Post*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Manila Reporter  
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Lessons from the Philippines for dealing with trolls



**Johny Cassidy**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: UK  
 PLACE OF WORK: BBC  
 POSITION AT WORK: News Digital Special Projects Producer  
 SPONSOR: BBC Academy  
 PROJECT TITLE: How to make data visualisations accessible to blind news audiences



**Ronson Chan**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hong Kong  
 PLACE OF WORK: Channel C HK  
 POSITION AT WORK: Multimedia Production Supervisor  
 SPONSOR: Facebook Journalism Project  
 PROJECT TITLE: Lessons in live-streaming protests from Hong Kong



**Laida Chongo**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Zambia  
 POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Freelance journalist  
 SPONSOR: Facebook Journalism Project  
 PROJECT TITLE: No easy answers: how to end 'blalizo' payments in Zambia



**Jacob Fuglsang**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Denmark  
 PLACE OF WORK: JP/Politikens Hus  
 POSITION AT WORK: Editor  
 SPONSOR: JP/Politikens Hus  
 PROJECT TITLE: Solutions journalism in foreign correspondence



**Zsófia Fülöp**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Hungary  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Magyar Narancs*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Journalist  
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Roma representation in Hungarian news



**Tanmoy Goswami**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Sanity by Tanmoy*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Founding Editor  
 SPONSOR: Journalism Under Pressure Fund, RISJ  
 PROJECT TITLE: Follow the money: the missing link in booming coverage of mental health



**Vanessa Gruber**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Austria  
 PLACE OF WORK: ORF Austrian Broadcasting Corporation  
 POSITION AT WORK: Journalist  
 SPONSOR: Austria Press Agency  
 PROJECT TITLE: Rowing together for better climate coverage



**Abu Sayeed Asiful Islam**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Bangladesh  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Dhaka Tribune*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Associate Editor  
 SPONSOR: European Climate Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Reframing climate change discourse in South Asia

# Fellows' Voices



“ The fellowship has reinvigorated my passion for journalism.  
Radheshyam Jadhav



“ This fellowship meant a possibility to be in a safe place while there's a war in my country, while continuing to grow professionally.  
Olga Tokariuk-Shelest



“ I've made lifetime friends through the fellowship, and it will always be a highlight of my career.  
Evie Liu



“ It widened my understanding about what journalism can be and how it's being made.  
Jussi Latvala

“ The fellowship gave me a new vocabulary of empowerment – not just as a journalist, but as a person.  
Regine Cabato



“ A fantastic opportunity to soak up and learn from the other fellows' experiences.  
Johnny Cassidy

“ An excellent platform for international journalistic exchange and networking.  
Ronson Chan



“ The fellowship made me prove to myself that I could attain anything I put my mind to.  
Laida Chongo

## Journalist Fellows 2022/2023



**Manar Ismail**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Jordan  
 PLACE OF WORK: Radio Sawa  
 POSITION AT WORK: Reporter  
 SPONSOR: Mona Megalli  
 PROJECT TITLE: Jordan's missing news narrative: transgender coverage



**Radheshyam Jadhav**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India  
 PLACE OF WORK: The Hindu Businessline  
 POSITION AT WORK: Deputy Editor  
 SPONSOR: European Climate Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Constructive struggle: a model for empowered reporting of women in agriculture



**Jussi Latvala**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Finland  
 PLACE OF WORK: Yle  
 POSITION AT WORK: Producer  
 SPONSOR: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Beyond the hype: the benefits and pitfalls of journalistic transparency



**Tarjei Leer-Salvesen**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Norway  
 POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Freelance journalist  
 SPONSOR: Fritt Ord Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Mapping public information requests for global collaboration



**Evie Liu**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: USA/China  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Barron's*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Reporter  
 SPONSOR: Google News Initiative  
 PROJECT TITLE: Covering climate change from the business desk



**Hideki Mushiake**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan  
 PLACE OF WORK: NHK  
 POSITION AT WORK: Executive Reporter  
 SPONSOR: NHK  
 PROJECT TITLE: Lessons in digital transformation for public broadcasters



**Soon Kiat Ng**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Lianhe Zaobao*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Associate Digital Content Editor  
 SPONSOR: SPH Media  
 PROJECT TITLE: Opportunities and challenges for retaining trust in Singapore's state-funded media



**Mpho Raborife**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa  
 PLACE OF WORK: Media24  
 POSITION AT WORK: Managing Editor  
 SPONSOR: Media24  
 PROJECT TITLE: How to make newsrooms more attractive to Gen Z journalists



**Frida Sandgren**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Sweden  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Dagens Nyheter*  
 POSITION AT WORK: News Editor  
 SPONSOR: *Dagens Nyheter*  
 PROJECT TITLE: Lessons in confronting old newsroom values and structures from ICIJ and AFP



**Fisayo Soyombo**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Nigeria  
 PLACE OF WORK: Foundation for Investigative Journalism  
 POSITION AT WORK: Editor-in-Chief  
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Targeted discrediting of journalists



**Yuen-C Tham**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore  
 PLACE OF WORK: *The Straits Times*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Senior Political Correspondent  
 SPONSOR: SPH Media  
 PROJECT TITLE: A framework for evaluating tech experiments in newsrooms



**Olga Tokariuk-Shelest**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Ukraine  
 POSITION AND PLACE OF WORK: Freelance journalist  
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: The role of humour in Ukraine's misinformation response



**Phillippe Watanabe**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Brazil  
 PLACE OF WORK: *Folha de S.Paulo*  
 POSITION AT WORK: Reporter  
 SPONSOR: Laudes Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: Tackling shifting baseline syndrome in news



**Natalia Zhdanova**

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Russia  
 PLACE OF WORK: To Be Continued Media Group  
 POSITION AT WORK: Independent Podcaster  
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation  
 PROJECT TITLE: The role of the Russian Orthodox Church in war propaganda



**OTHER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS**

**Journalist Fellowship Showcases**

In answer to the challenge of how to present and celebrate the work of a growing cohort, we introduced the Showcases this year: a 45-minute scripted live journalism show.

**Christmas and Spring Showcases**

In the first term, journalists presented a showcase at the Institute that covered the accessibility of data journalism for blind news audiences, lessons in climate coverage for business journalists, and a critique of how journalists have covered crypto.

In the second term, journalists presented lessons in live-streaming from the Hong Kong protests, the use of humour against disinformation in Ukraine, and Roma representation in Hungarian news.



**London Showcase**

In our final term, we took 13 journalists to the Frontline Club to present on topics including citizen journalism in Myanmar, safety in South Sudan and Nigeria, cross-border FOIA requests, and the problem with shifting baseline syndrome in the coverage of the climate crisis.



**Journalist Fellowship 40th Anniversary**

The 40th Journalist Fellowship Reunion was celebrated in Oxford with close to 200 journalist fellows attending. Over the course of three days, many critical questions on the challenges faced by the media industry were discussed and debated; how AI could change journalism, the need for open collaboration between foreign correspondents and local journalists in an increasingly dangerous reporting environment, what newsroom leaders must do for lasting and impactful diversity in their newsrooms and the crucial question of building revenue models that build audiences and help good journalism flourish.

The terrain and troubles have intensified over the last four decades and the gathering was,

above all, an important opportunity to rebuild and rejuvenate networks.

We were honoured to have the Vice Chancellor, Professor Irene Tracey, deliver the keynote lecture and celebrate the Institute's global focus and accomplishments. Her words ring true for journalists across the world, 'At its best, journalism has the ability to take on a shared role with academia as "curators of truth" and educators at heart. For both journalist and academicians, discovering, sharing and curating the truth involves a constant journey.'

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism is committed to this journey, to seek truth and report it, while always striving to bring industry and best research practices together.



## ● The Oxford Climate Journalism Network

**DIEGO ARGUEDAS ORTIZ** ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR · OCJN



OPPOSITE PAGE: Islamic students look at houses collapsed during Monday's earthquake in Cianjur, West Java province, Indonesia, November 23, 2022, in this photo taken by Antara Foto. Antara Foto/Raisan Al Farisi via REUTERS.

BELOW LEFT: A man looks out from the window of his house in an area flooded by the overflowing Bagmati river following heavy rains, in Kathmandu, Nepal August 8, 2023. REUTERS/Navesh Chitrakar.

From the newsrooms of the legacy media brands to the agile online presence of indie outlets, we continued building the world's largest community of climate journalists through the Oxford Climate Journalism Network (OCJN). Our programme connects all corners of the Reuters Institute, through our core work with the Journalist Programmes team under Director Mitali Mukherjee and with ongoing projects with Research, Leadership and Editorial.

Our past year saw us grow from an aspiring experiment to a fully fledged community, now composed of over 430 journalists and editors from over 100 countries.

### Our flagship course

The start of the 2022/2023 academic year found us halfway through our second cohort, and COP27 provided a great backdrop for our climate conversations. Our call for applications in late 2022 has been the most

successful to date, with 831 applicants for only 100 spaces. Such interest meant our third cohort, which ran from January to June 2023, was of an extremely high level. The group that started in July 2023 also brought a tremendous amount of energy in their first weeks.

### Our first OCJN Annual Event

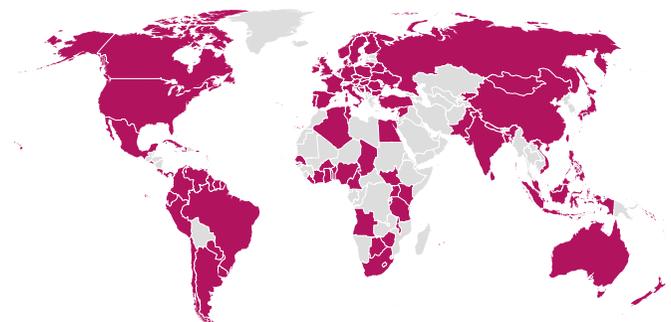
This April we welcomed our members to the first OCJN Annual Event, focused on covering greenwashing and accountability journalism. We had great attendance, with 114 members and alumni joining.

### Leadership sessions

This year we pioneered a new format for our climate leadership courses: chats between an outlet's climate editor and their peers leading other desks. We worked with 26 editors across two courses this academic year, one for politics and another for business.

### How to fix climate journalism essay series

In July 2023 we launched 'How to Fix Climate Journalism', an ambitious essay series written by members of the OCJN's first two cohorts and edited by content editor Katherine Dunn.



ABOVE: Jewell Baggett and her husband Brian Cunningham pick through the wreckage of the home built by Jewell's grandfather which Hurricane Idalia had reduced to rubble, in Horseshoe Beach, Florida, U.S., August 30, 2023. REUTERS/Cheney Orr.

LEFT: Map of membership.

BELOW: A view of Sierra Boyera Reservoir at 0.01% capacity, in Belmez, southern Spain April 26, 2023. REUTERS/Guillermo Martinez.

### Global South Climate Database

In October 2022 we co-launched the Global South Climate Database, a database that lists experts and scientists from Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Pacific and helps reporters diversify their sources.

### Across the Institute

Our network also funded projects across the Institute: we brought three mid-career reporters – from Brazil, Bangladesh, and India – to join the fellowship programme this year and our postdoctoral research fellow, Waqas Ejaz, published a trailblazing report in December about how audiences access news and information about climate change.



## ● Leadership Development Programmes

**FEDERICA CHERUBINI** HEAD OF LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Over the 2022/2023 academic year, 250 participants from 49 countries worldwide attended one of the 23 leadership development programmes we hosted, online or in-person, in Oxford or abroad.

Top editors and CEOs, heads of news at public broadcasters, senior managers working in product, technology and innovation, and founders and executive directors from digital-born publications have participated in our invitation-only forums and events, where we discussed the external and internal forces shaping the news industry. Participants represented countries from all over the world, from Brazil to India, to Hungary and South Africa.

New and mid-career news managers have attended courses on the fundamentals of newsroom leadership, where they developed their people management skills, created strategies to navigate change and promote effective communication within their teams, and built their professional

network. Programmes for senior media professionals focused on organisational and strategic challenges faced by their news organisations.

All our programmes offer participants a chance to step back from the day-to-day routine and spend a few days discussing challenges and opportunities they and their organisations are facing. In a confidential and constructive setting, they exchange actionable ideas and practical insights with peers from around the world, while also learning from our evidence-based research and some of the brightest minds in the industry.

With our colleagues from the Oxford Climate Journalism Network, we hosted online climate leadership events, focused on fostering collaboration between the climate and politics desks, as well as the business and climate desks.

In November 2022 we published our annual *Changing Newsrooms* report, which explores how newsrooms around the world are shifting their workplace practices and approaches to talent and diversity.

In collaboration with the editorial department, we published a five-episode podcast series on Authentic Leadership, hosted by Ramaa Sharma, an award-winning digital leader, consultant, and executive coach, and a regular speaker at our programmes. The series explores what authenticity means in the context of newsroom leadership and looks at what challenges leaders from minority backgrounds face in staying true to themselves and thriving in the workplace.



### Leading Newsroom Change

🔥 *Inspiring days that generated a huge number of ideas for me to concentrate on.*

Jennie Matthew, Head of the English Europe/Africa Desk, AFP

🔥 *I take home a lot of good advice and new knowledge on how to solve specific challenges – and also new inspiration and a really exciting network.*

Tina Krøngaard, Digital Producer, *Politiken*

### Future Leaders in News

🔥 *I'll bring some of the strategies to my own team and, more importantly, to my own mindset.*

Lea Bayer, Head, ZEIT ONLINE Live

🔥 *As my team evolves or grows, I have new strategies around mentorship, development and mental health.*

Greg Walton, Senior Editor, AFP

### Bespoke Programmes

🔥 *The facilitators made the space feel safe and relaxed to speak in. I enjoyed the open discussion sessions.*

Megan O'Neill, Internal Communications Senior Advisor, BBC

## ● Research and Publications

**RICHARD FLETCHER** DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



Part of our mission is to use research to try to answer the questions that matter most to journalists, editors, and communication scholars across the world. Our research provides timely, accessible, and evidence-based independent analysis of issues facing journalism and news media, 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*, which tracks developments in news use and attitudes across 46 media markets. We were delighted to be able to continue to carry out research across countries that, when combined, account for more than half of the world's population.

Our Trust in News project has moved into its third and final year. In our recent report, *News for the Powerful and Privileged*, we drew on qualitative interviews and focus groups

in Brazil, India, the UK, and the US to show how differences along lines of race, caste, religion, class, and place affect perceptions of trustworthy journalism – and how distinct experiences, needs, and expectations that lead people to perceive news as representing their communities negatively, unfairly, stereotypically, or in divisive or altogether absent ways entirely. This year also saw the first peer-reviewed articles from the project published in academic journals.

In December 2022 we published our first report from the Oxford Climate Journalism Network, based on a survey in eight countries (Brazil, France, Germany, India, Japan, Pakistan, the UK, and the US) on how people get news about climate change, what they think about it, and whom they trust. We will repeat the survey in Autumn 2023 to track changes over time. In 2022/2023 we also published updated editions of our *Trends and Predictions* and *Changing Newsrooms* reports, as well as our *Women and Leadership* and *Race and Leadership* factsheets.

In addition to informing decision-making by journalists and in newsrooms, our work is part of policy and public debates both in the UK and across the world. Our research continues to be featured in thousands of news articles, and is cited by hundreds of researchers.

In 2022/2023 we published more than a dozen reports, articles, and books. A sample is included on the following pages. Many RISJ publications are available for free download from our website. Hard copies can be purchased via our partner publisher, Columbia University Press, Amazon, other booksellers, or the University of Oxford online store.



### RISJ REPORTS

#### Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2023

Nic Newman, Richard Fletcher, Craig T. Robertson, Kirsten Eddy, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSORS: Google News Initiative; BBC News; Centre d'études sur les médias; Université Laval; Code for Africa; Coimisiún na Meán; Commissariaat voor de Media; Edelman; Fritt Ord Foundation; Korea Press Foundation; Leibniz Institute for Media Research; Hans-Bredow-Institut; Media Industry Research Foundation of Finland; NHK; Ofcom; Reuters News Agency; Roskilde University; University of Canberra; University of Navarra

#### News for the Powerful and Privileged: How Misrepresentation and Underrepresentation of Disadvantaged Communities Undermines Their Trust in News

Amy Ross Arguedas, Sayan Banerjee, Camila Mont'Alverne, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

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#### Journalism, Media, and Technology Trends and Predictions 2023

Nic Newman

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#### How Publishers are Learning to Create and Distribute News on TikTok

Nic Newman

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

#### How We Follow Climate Change: Climate News Use and Attitudes in Eight Countries

Waqas Ejaz, Mitali Mukherjee, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: European Climate Foundation

ABOVE LEFT: *Maty Diop plays soccer outside her house, on the outskirts of Dakar, Senegal, January 17, 2023. REUTERS/Zohra Bensema.*

ABOVE RIGHT: *A woman carries fish in a tub, at a fish market in Mumbai, India, December 28, 2022. REUTERS/Francis Mascarenhas.*



**Changing Newsrooms 2022: Media Leaders Embrace Hybrid Work Despite Challenges**

Federica Cherubini  
 SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

**Born in the Fire: What We Can Learn from How Digital Publishers in the Global South Approach Platforms**

Rasmus Kleis Nielsen and Federica Cherubini  
 SPONSOR: Knight Foundation

**The Trust Gap: How and Why News on Digital Platforms Is Viewed More Sceptically Versus News in General**

Camila Mont’Alverne, Sumitra Badrinathan, Amy Ross Arguedas, Benjamin Toff, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Meta Journalism Project

ABOVE LEFT: A woman attends a protest at Catalunya square in support of Iranian women and against the death of Mahsa Amini in Barcelona, Spain October 4, 2022. REUTERS/Nacho Doce.

ABOVE RIGHT: Supporters of Kenya’s opposition leader Raila Odinga of the Azimio La Umoja (Declaration of Unity) One Kenya Alliance, throw stones at riot police officers as they participate in a nationwide protest over cost of living and President William Ruto’s government in Mathare settlement of Nairobi, Kenya March 27, 2023. REUTERS/John Muchucha.

**RISJ FACTSHEETS**

**Race and Leadership in the News Media 2023: Evidence from Five Markets**

Kirsten Eddy, Amy Ross Arguedas, Mitali Mukherjee, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

**Women and Leadership in the News Media 2023: Evidence from 12 Markets**

Kirsten Eddy, Amy Ross Arguedas, Mitali Mukherjee, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

**ACADEMIC ARTICLES (selected)**

**‘News Can Help! The Impact of News Media and Digital Platforms on Awareness of and Belief in Misinformation’.**

Altay, S., Nielsen, R. K., Fletcher, R. 2023. *International Journal of Press/Politics*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612221148981>

**“Fair and Balanced”: What News Audiences in Four Countries Mean When They Say They Prefer Impartial News’.**

Mont’Alverne, C., Badrinathan, S., Ross Arguedas A., Toff, B., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R. K. 2023. *Journalism Studies*, 24:9, 1131–48. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2023.2201864>

**‘Comparing the platformization of news media systems: A cross-country analysis’.**

Nielsen, R. K., Fletcher, R. 2023. *European Journal of Communication*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/02673231231189043>

**‘How News Feels: Anticipated Anxiety as a Factor in News Avoidance and a Barrier to Political Engagement’.**

Toff, B., Nielsen, R. K. 2022. *Political Communication*, 39:6, 697–714. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10584609.2022.2123073>

ABOVE LEFT: Migrants, mostly from Venezuela, try to cross a barrier, as they take part in a protest at the Paso del Norte international bridge to request asylum in the United States, seen from Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, March 12, 2023. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez.

ABOVE RIGHT: A woman wearing the headband of Hamas’ armed wing Qassam Brigades attends a rally marking the 35th anniversary of the movement’s founding, in Gaza City December 14, 2022. REUTERS/Ibraheem Abu Mustafa.

## Editorial

EDUARDO SUÁREZ HEAD OF EDITORIAL



This was a momentous year for the Institute's editorial team. We grew our team, amplified our output in four different languages, helped our colleagues promote their own initiatives, and expanded our coverage of journalism in the Global South with the help of two valuable colleagues and seven talented contributors.

This year's *Digital News Report* was more successful than ever, with a 30% increase in page views and mentions in more than 1,600 news articles across 71 countries in the first two weeks. We discussed the report at six global events featuring 16 editors from nine different countries. We also published a translation into Spanish by Argentinian journalist Abel Escudero Zadrayec and a podcast series produced by our colleague Matthew Leake.

We are especially happy to see so many journalists who operate in difficult circumstances pointing to the report as an essential source of knowledge when making crucial decisions. We cherish so many supportive comments from editors in countries as different as Peru, South Africa, Mexico, Brazil, Nigeria, Venezuela, and Paraguay. The report is a global piece of research, and seeing it discussed globally makes us very proud of what we do.

Our journalists Marina Adami and Gretel Kahn, along with our freelance reporters based in Argentina, Brazil, India, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, and the UK, continued to help us expand our focus and publish regular pieces on journalism, with a special focus on the Global South. We published articles covering new trends and different

ABOVE RIGHT: Journalist José Rubén Zamora, founder and president of elPeriodico, after a court hearing in Guatemala in 2022. REUTERS/Josue Decavele.

BELOW LEFT: Sudanese people, who fled the conflict in Murnei in Sudan's Darfur region, walk beside carts carrying their belongings upon crossing the border between Sudan and Chad in Adre, Chad August 2, 2023. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra.

BELOW RIGHT: Demonstrators and journalists react next to the body of journalist Romelson Vilsaint who was fatally struck by a tear gas canister, outside a police station in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, October 30, 2022.

BELOW FAR RIGHT: Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich, who was arrested in March while on a reporting trip and accused of espionage, stands behind a glass wall of an enclosure for defendants before a court hearing to consider an appeal against his detention, in Moscow, Russia June 22, 2023. REUTERS/Evgenia Novozhenina.



aspects of journalism in countries such as Indonesia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Uruguay, Lebanon, Somalia, and Tanzania.

These feature pieces help us expand our reach and better fulfil our mission of exploring the future of journalism worldwide. In this academic year, we published 121 original pieces covering 50 different countries, including 32 not covered by our academic research.

As a result, our digital channels are still growing by double digits. The traffic to our website experienced a 37% increase throughout this academic year. We are now reaching three times more people than we were in 2018, with an audience that is more engaged than ever and more geographically diverse. More than 25,000 people receive our newsletters in English, Spanish, and Italian, and we've never grown so fast: we've almost doubled our mailing list in the last 12 months. While focusing on our most loyal audience, we keep promoting our output more broadly: more than 30,000 people follow us on LinkedIn and almost 80,000 people now follow our Twitter accounts.



ABOVE: A protester lies on the ground after being pushed during a protest over coronavirus disease (COVID-19) restrictions in mainland China, during a commemoration of the victims of a fire in Urumqi, in Hong Kong, China November 28, 2022. REUTERS/Tyrone Siu.

**REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORT 2023 LAUNCH EVENTS**



**Global – in partnership with Reuters**



Alessandra Galloni, Editor-in-Chief, Reuters  
Nick Glicher, COO, Thomson Reuters Foundation  
Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Director, RISJ



Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ  
Jane Barrett, Global Editor for Media News Strategy, Reuters  
Kamal Ahmed, Editor-in-Chief, The News Movement  
Naja Nielsen, Digital Director, BBC News



**USA – in partnership with Reuters**



Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Director, RISJ  
Lydia Polgreen, Columnist, *New York Times*  
Shazna Nessa, Global Head of Visuals,  
*Wall Street Journal*



Latoya Drake, Head of North America,  
Google News Lab



Arlyn Gajilan, Digital News Director,  
Reuters



**Latin America – in partnership with Gabo Foundation**

Eduardo Suárez, Head of Editorial, RISJ



**Asia-Pacific**

Mitali Mukherjee, Director of Journalist Programmes, RISJ  
Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, Reuters Institute  
Yvonne Chua, author of the Philippines country page,  
*Digital News Report 2023*  
Reiko Saisho, author of the Japan country page,  
*Digital News Report 2023*



**India**



Mitali Mukherjee, Director of Journalist Programmes, RISJ



Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Director, RISJ

Ankur Paliwal, Founder, Queerbeat Media

Jahnvi Sen, Deputy Editor, The Wire

S. Senthilir, Senior Editor, People’s Archive of Rural India



**Africa**



Federica Cherubini, Head of Leadership  
Development, RISJ



Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ



Chris Roper, Deputy CEO, Code for Africa

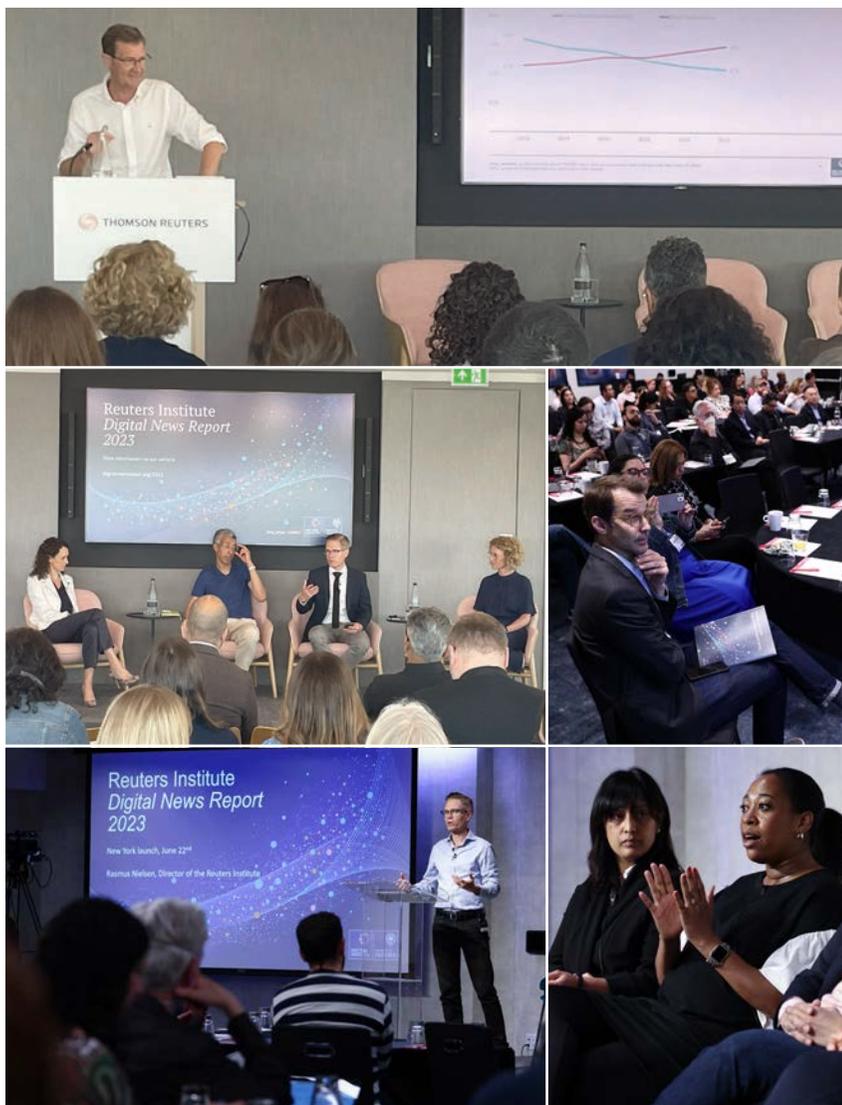


Mpho Raborife, Managing Editor, News24

Isaac Aregbesola, Editor, NAN

Oliver Mathenge, Managing Editor for Audiences  
and Engagement, Nation Media Group

**DIGITAL NEWS REPORT IN-PERSON LAUNCHES**



TOP: Global Launch: Nic Newman presenting his findings.

MIDDLE LEFT: Global Launch: Jane Barrett, Kamal Ahmed, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Naja Nielsen.

MIDDLE RIGHT: USA Launch: Audience Members.

BOTTOM LEFT: Rasmus Kleis Nielsen presenting the findings.

BOTTOM RIGHT: USA Launch: Shazna Nessa, Latoya Drake, Arlyn Gajilan, Lydia Polgreen, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen.

**REUTERS MEMORIAL LECTURE 2023**

**How to Report Under a Dictatorship:  
Lessons from Nicaragua and Beyond**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **Carlos F. Chamorro**,  
Nicaraguan journalist and Editor  
of *Confidencial*

MODERATOR: **Alan Rusbridger**, Chair, RISJ  
Steering Committee

PANEL: **Luz Mely Reyes**, Editor and Co-founder  
of Venezuelan news site Efecto Cocuyo,  
**John-Allan Namu**, CEO and Co-founder of  
Africa Uncensored

The annual Memorial Lecture deals with  
a critical issue facing the news industry.  
This year Carlos F. Chamorro discussed the  
challenges faced by members of the press  
in the deterioration of democracy and the  
importance of keeping the press free and  
without fear or favour to be able to hold power  
to account.



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## About Us

### Governance 2022/2023

#### 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

**Zaffar Abbas**, Editor, *Dawn*

**Stephen Ansolabehere**, Professor of Political Science, Harvard University

**Marty Baron**, Former Executive Editor, *Washington Post*

**Helen Boaden**, Council Member, Royal Academy of Arts; Board Member, UK Statistics Authority

**Campbell Brown**, Head of News Partnerships, Facebook

**Madhav Chinnappa**, Director of News Ecosystem Development, Google

**Alexandra Förderl-Schmid**, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*

**Catherine Gicheru**, Director, Africa Women Journalist Project

**Natali Helberger**, Professor of Law and Digital Technology, University of Amsterdam

**Ritu Kapur**, Co-founder and CEO, Quintillion Media

**Noa Landau**, Deputy Editor, *Haaretz*

**Javier Moreno**, Former Editor-in-Chief, *El País*

**John-Allan Namu**, CEO and Co-founder, Africa Uncensored

**Luz Mely Reyes**, Co-founder, Efecto Cocuyo

**Ed Richards**, Managing Partner, Flint Global Ltd

**Vivian Schiller**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute

**Mark Thompson**, Co-chair, International Fund for Public Interest Media

#### 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**, Editor, *Prospect Magazine*

**Wale Adebaniwi**, Presidential Penn Compact Professor of Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania

**Federica Cherubini**, Head of Leadership Development, RISJ

**Sir Michael Dixon**, Principal, Green Templeton College

**Richard Fletcher**, Director of Research, RISJ

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

**Jane Green**, Professor of Political Science and British Politics, Nuffield College, Oxford

**Kate Hanneford-Smith**, Director of Operations, RISJ

**Helen Lewis**, Journalist, *The Atlantic*

**Geert Linnebank**, Trustee of the Thomson Reuters Foundation

**Gina Neff**, Executive Director of the Minderoo Centre for Technology & Democracy at the University of Cambridge and Professor of Technology & Society, Oxford

**Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, RISJ

**Mitali Mukherjee**, Director, Journalist Programmes, RISJ

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

**Nicholas Owen**, Joint Head of Dept of Politics and International Relations, Oxford

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

**Eduardo Suárez**, Head of Editorial, RISJ

**Nina Tomlin**, Head of Administration and Finance, Dept of Politics and International Relations, Oxford

**Antonio Zappulla**, CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundation

#### Staff

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**Louise Allcock**, Leadership Development Officer

**Sacha Altay**, Research Fellow

**Diego Arguedas Ortiz**, Associate Director, Oxford Climate Journalism Network

**Sayan Banerjee**, Research Fellow

**Priscille Biehlmann**, Programme Producer, Leadership Development

**Lauren Brown**, Journalist Programmes Officer

**Federica Cherubini**, Head of Leadership Development

**Katherine Dunn**, Content Editor, Oxford Climate Journalism Network

**Kirsten Eddy**, Research Fellow

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**Matthew Leake**, Communications and Media Officer

**Cheris Leung**, Executive Assistant to the Director

**Silvia Majó-Vázquez**, Research Fellow

**Caithlin Mercer**, Associate Director, Journalist Fellowship Programme

**Camila Mont'Alverne**, Research Fellow

**Juan Morante**, Fellowship Assistant and PA

**Mitali Mukherjee**, Director, Journalist Programmes

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**Alex Reid**, Publications Officer

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**Amy Ross Arguedas**, Research Fellow

**Eduardo Suárez**, Head of Editorial

**Benjamin Toff**, Senior Research Fellow

#### Senior Research Associates

**Alexandra Borchardt**

**Lucy Kueng**

**David Levy**

**Nic Newman**

**Meera Selva**

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

#### Visiting Fellows

**Jessica Cecil**

**Arne H. Krumsvik**

**Kang Taek Lee**

**María F. Novoa Jaso**

**Damian Radcliffe**

**Anya Schiffrin**

## ● Partners, Benefactors, and Funders

### THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION

RISJ receives core funding from the Thomson Reuters Foundation



### DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

RISJ is part of the Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford, and one of the joint Heads of Department, Professor Nicholas Owen, serves 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 Sir Michael Dixon serves 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 2022/2023. Our total turnover in 2022/2023 was approximately £4.7 million. Further details on our funding can be found on our website, and all major new grants are announced there.

*New sponsors for this year are indicated below with an asterisk.*

### Breakdown of Funding Sources





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