



REUTERS
INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF JOURNALISM



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD



Annual Report
2023/2024



RISJ at a Glance 2023/2024

JOURNALIST PROGRAMMES

19 Journalist Fellows

16 Countries the Fellows came from

200 Members of the Oxford Climate Journalism Network (OCJN)

77 Nationalities of the OCJN Fellows

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

132 Invitation-only participants

68 Open Admission participants

92 Bespoke Programme participants

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

12 RISJ Publications

6 Outside Publications

EDITORIAL

167 Original journalism pieces on the website

64 Countries covered in these pieces

Contents

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

02 Preface

04 Director's Report

05 Journalist Programmes

06 Journalist Fellowship Programme

16 Oxford Climate Journalism Network

18 Leadership Development Programmes

20 Research and Publications

24 Editorial

30 About Us

FRONT COVER: Mourners attend the funeral of Palestinian journalist Mohammed Abu Hattab, who was killed in an Israeli strike, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, November 3, 2023. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem.



BELOW: A man loads his goats into a ferry to transport them to the mainland for sale, on Ghoramara Island in the Sundarbans, West Bengal, India, May 18, 2024. REUTERS/Avijit Ghos.

PREVIOUS PAGE: A woman holds an umbrella during the South African elections, in Nkandla, South Africa May 29, 2024. REUTERS/Rogan Ward.

ABOVE: A fisherman gathers his catch on the banks of Zambezi River, where fishermen say that their livelihood is being negatively affected by the El Nino-related drought and its effects on the river in Binga, Zimbabwe, March 22, 2024. REUTERS/KB Mpoju.



● Preface

ALAN RUSBRIDGER CHAIR · RISJ STEERING COMMITTEE



© Ben Robinson

It helps to be an optimist. The enemies of journalism have had a good year, and it needs reserves of resilience to believe in good societies based on verifiable and agreed facts.

But at the Reuters Institute we can't help but be optimists – if only because of the quality, stamina, and integrity of the Journalist Fellows who come to us each year, many of them facing quite formidable obstacles to their work. If they refuse to be defeated, then so do we.

This year we've hosted 19 Journalist Fellows from 16 countries. Between them they have tackled such crucial issues as legal intimidation against news publishers (strategic lawsuit against public participation, aka SLAPPs), recruiting more women in news television into the role of camerapersons, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in frontline journalists.

Our annual Reuters Memorial Lecture featured the *New York Times*'s publisher A. G. Sulzberger, and our seminars have hosted world-class speakers from journalism and academia such as Connie Walker, Friederike Otto, Rosamund Urwin, Elda Cantú and Timothy Garton Ash.

Our climate network, founded in 2022, has grown into a fully fledged community, now composed of around 600 journalists and editors from over 120 countries and territories. Its annual event focused on reporting on extreme heat, a challenge for an increasing number of people around the world.

In an industry shattered by economic turmoil, we've hosted 292 media managers from 57 countries at the 23 leadership development programmes we held, online or in-person, in Oxford and abroad. They came to learn and to share experiences with their peers.

Our research has broken new ground throughout this academic year on topics such as newsroom diversity, climate journalism, user needs, trust in news, and AI and the future of news, with our signature *Digital News Report* covering 47 markets around the world.

Our digital footprint has continued to grow this year, with our newsletters now reaching 26,000 people and the traffic to our website increasing by 15% in the last year. The main focus of our editorial output has been the rise of AI and the impact it may have on journalism, with interviews with Julia Angwin and Agnes Stenbom, and a series on AI and the Future of Audio.

Under Rasmus's leadership, the Institute has grown its global reach and the scope of its work. I would like to thank him for all that he has done for the Institute. We are sad to see him leave his post as Director, but we are glad he'll keep working for the Institute and doing research on the future of news.

Exploring that future through research and engagement has never been more necessary in this age of information chaos. This is why the Institute's work is so important and why we are committed to it.

ANTONIO ZAPPULLA CEO · THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



Good journalism is a core pillar of democracy. It shines a light on the corridors of power and arms individuals with the information they need to make vital civic decisions. But as this year sees elections taking place in countries that are home to almost half the world's population, we are witnessing increasingly malign legal, physical, and digital tactics being used to suppress scrutiny at a time when accurate information is needed most.

At the Thomson Reuters Foundation we are committed to supporting independent journalism, leveraging our unique blend of media and legal expertise. We work on initiatives to develop the skills and standards necessary for journalists to hold power to account. We collaborate with newsrooms worldwide to establish sustainable and efficient operations and to help them better connect with audiences through high-quality,

public-interest journalism. And we empower at-risk media and the broader industry to address the constantly evolving threats and challenges to press freedom.

To undertake such a range of activities, at pace and at scale, up-to-date research and data on industry needs is vital. The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism provides an environment where media practitioners and academics can not only explore but also predict the trajectory of these seismic changes affecting the profession. Its annual *Digital News Report*, the world's most extensive analysis into how populations are consuming news online, offers an essential outlook, helping to inform editorial strategies in an increasingly uncertain world.

We are proud to have provided the core funding for the Institute's leading research, events, and fellowship programme – an investment in future-proofing the profession. Under the leadership of Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, it has become one of the world's most respected centres for journalism excellence. Since the programme began, the Thomson Reuters Foundation has sponsored over 200 fellows from our programmes across the globe, with almost a quarter sponsored during Rasmus's tenure, providing them with an unparalleled opportunity to hone their skills and expertise through study at the University of Oxford. As Rasmus steps down this year, I extend my deepest gratitude to him for cultivating an environment where journalists can learn freely and forge lasting connections with their peers, and for his stellar stewardship of the Institute.

● Outgoing Director's Report

RASMUS KLEIS NIELSEN



Every day, more journalists, editors, and media leaders come to the Reuters Institute for ideas on how journalism can be better tomorrow than it was in the past. They join our journalist programmes, they attend leadership programme events, they read our research and our reporting. They spend time with us in Oxford and online, and often invite us back to their newsrooms, their countries, to explore the future of journalism together.

Each of them has their own ideals and interests and their own target audiences and local contexts – from the largest and most well-known international news media to individual reporters working on the ground in some of the most difficult places on the planet. All of them seek us out because they want to learn from others and engage with new ideas, research, and analysis, no matter how challenging and sometimes unwelcome the insights that arise are. All of them bring

so much to share with their peers and those of us who work at the Institute.

As this is my last year as Director before I take up a new position at the University of Copenhagen after nine years in leadership roles in Oxford, I want to thank the whole Reuters Institute community – all these programme participants, as well as our alumni, funders, Steering Committee and Advisory Board members, and especially my amazing colleagues over the years.

We have worked together to make the Institute a place where different people come together in a spirit of curiosity and frank discussion, and a willingness to consider the evidence and others' points of view, not just comforting platitudes, inherited axioms, and personal opinions. You have made the Institute everything it is, and I have learned so much from you. It has been an honour and a privilege.

I am grateful to continue to be part of this community as an associate and collaborator, and I know that the Institute will continue to grow and evolve in new and exciting ways with a strong team in place, an incredible community, and a commitment to the timeless aspiration of seeking truth and reporting it – shared by journalists and researchers alike – as well as the ongoing work of remaking the news media we have inherited from the past, so that they can serve the whole public today and thrive in the world of tomorrow.

● Journalist Programmes

MITALI MUKHERJEE ACTING DIRECTOR · REUTERS INSTITUTE
DIRECTOR · JOURNALIST PROGRAMMES



The year has been marked by an intense news cycle with more than 50 elections held across the world and conflict erupting in several regions.

Much of this has unfolded against the backdrop of violent attacks on journalists, also making it a year where the most fundamental concern remains that of protecting the lives of journalists. Media censorship, new and complex developments in the world of AI and its relationship with news platforms, and a continuing trend of audience disengagement point to formidable challenges for the news industry.

Our approach at the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism has always been to meet these critical questions with the tools of research, deep analysis, and open dialogue. Across our Fellowship Programme, Journalist Fellows have taken on issues of legal intimidation against news publishers through SLAPPs, or strategic lawsuits; how to report on missing people of colour; recruiting more women in news television into the role of camerapersons; post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) in frontline journalists; and cross-

generational engagement in newsrooms, to name a few.

The *Digital News Report* continues to point to platform resets, where less and less traffic to news sites is coming from social media, as well as showing a greater need being expressed by audiences for news to provide knowledge or 'educate me' across geographies. It underlines the importance and value of our climate work through the Oxford Climate Journalism Network. An exemplar was our annual event that focused this year on extreme heat – how to report on it, the science that connects climate change to extreme heat, and, crucially, how to keep journalists safe while reporting in extreme heat conditions. Our goal remains building the climate confidence of journalists the world over, enabling them to report and contextualise information for broader audience groups and policy-makers.

Challenges can be universal and yet unique: there is often no one-size-fits-all. For instance, concern around misinformation is far more acute in India and South Africa, which have both had high-decibel elections, and our journalist programmes will continue to focus on building spaces for journalists who have international representation, global dialogue, and nuanced insight around questions such as this.

The coming year will see many Journalist Fellows work on the growing and varied forms of AI that are being integrated into newsrooms. We have already conducted and published research around AI and audiences, and this will inform the work we do across our journalist programmes.

The Reuters Institute has been built on the twin pillars of research-based findings rooted in feedback and lessons from the news industry. We are extremely proud and regardful of the work we do and the value of free and independent journalism in every part of the world. It remains one of the most precious and powerful forces in these times.

Journalist Fellowship Programme

CAITHLIN MERCER ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR · JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



The Fellowship Programme welcomed 19 fellows from 16 countries this year, including our first fellows from new industry sponsors Nikkei Inc. in Japan and Haaretz in Israel, as well as UN-OHRLS, a United Nations-funded scholarship.

A highly accomplished group, their projects included plans for a new centre to tackle PTSD among West African journalists, a practical guide to navigating SLAPP suits in Poland and the Balkans, a powerful call to encourage more female camera operators in TV news, and a survey on inter-generational communication in the SPH Media newsroom.

Some programming highlights this year included spending time with former *Daily Mirror* editor Alison Phillips, Pulitzer Prize winning podcaster Connie Walker, the *Sunday Times* media editor Rosamund Urwin, and the Thompson Professor of Government at Harvard University Stephen Ansolabehere. We also took part in training to brush up on our audio-editing skills, learnt the NVivo data analysis tool, and took a crash course



in open-source intelligence from *Der Spiegel's* Roman Höfner.

Of course, all the networking and learning was peppered with a healthy dose of fun too: plenty of dinners (the Ethiopian meal was particularly memorable), punting, and time spent in pubs.

Our monthly newsletter for alumni was launched this year, sent on the last Thursday of every month to more than 700 alumni. It's a light-hearted roundup of news from the Fellowship and latest publications, and it gives us the chance to highlight opportunities and alumni wins.

Finally, it was a record-breaking year for applications to the programme, with more than 1,200 journalists vying for a spot. After rigorous panel reviews and interviews, we now look forward to welcoming 24 journalists from 19 countries to Oxford in the 2024/25 academic year.



PREVIOUS PAGE: *Fellows at BBC News.*

BELOW: *Fellows at Sky News.*

THREE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Fellowship Programme increased collaboration with the University this year by holding journalism seminars at the Maths Institute in partnership with Green Templeton College, at Blavatnik School of Government, and at Saïd Business School.

In October, at the Maths Institute, we heard from climate attribution specialist **Dr Friederike Otto**. She spoke ahead of COP28 about what she hoped to see journalists focusing on during the summit and offered valuable advice on reporting extreme weather events.

In January, we were joined by famed Hong Kong satirist **Chip Tsao**, in collaboration with the Chandler Session on Integrity and Corruption at Blavatnik. Chip spoke about the power and pressure of holding politicians to account through humour.

BELOW TOP: *Friederike Otto panel.*

BELOW MIDDLE: *Chip Tsao seminar.*

BELOW BOTTOM: *Sarah Kent seminar.*



In June, we were at Saïd Business School with **Sarah Kent**, the sustainability editor at *The Business of Fashion* and founder of their sustainability index. From Shein to the Met Gala, it was a fascinating insight into how business journalism can contribute to more conscientious design.

Journalist Fellows 2023/2024



Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom
PLACE OF WORK: *New York Times*
POSITION AT WORK: Editor
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to report on missing people of colour



Maxine Collins

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom
PLACE OF WORK: BBC News
POSITION AT WORK: Television Camera/Editor
SPONSOR: BBC Academy
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Behind the lens: recruiting and retaining women in the news camera department



Signe Ferslev Pedersen

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Denmark
PLACE OF WORK: Finans
POSITION AT WORK: ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) Editor
SPONSOR: JP/Politikens Hus
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: ESG journalism: bridging complexity with audience engagement



Laura Gartry

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Australia
PLACE OF WORK: Australian Broadcasting Corporation
POSITION AT WORK: Digital Producer
SPONSOR: Australian Broadcasting Corporation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Personalised news: how to balance technology and editorial integrity



Osamah Golpy

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Iraq/Kurdistan
PLACE OF WORK: Rudaw Media Network
POSITION AT WORK: Deputy Head, Assignment Desk
SPONSOR: Mona Megalli
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Darkest of dark times: reporting on inaccessible countries



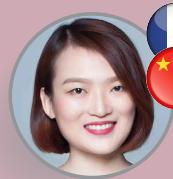
Sheo Be Ho

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore
PLACE OF WORK: *Lianhe Zaobao*
POSITION AT WORK: Political Editor
SPONSOR: SPH Media
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Navigating intergenerational dynamics at work: a study of Singaporean newsrooms



Hanna Käyhkö

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Finland
PLACE OF WORK: *Karjalan Heili*
POSITION AT WORK: Editor-in-Chief
SPONSOR: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The winning formula for local news: a compilation of good ideas



Hongqiao Liu

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France/China
PLACE OF WORK: Shuang Tan Substack newsletter
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist and consultant
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Towards better coverage of China, climate, and geopolitics



Clara Lock

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore
PLACE OF WORK: *The Strait Times*
POSITION AT WORK: Assistant Life Editor
SPONSOR: SPH Media
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Intersectional travel journalism and why it matters



Patrycja Maciejewicz

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Poland
PLACE OF WORK: *Gazeta Wyborcza*
POSITION AT WORK: Vice Head of Business Desk
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Combatting newsroom SLAPPS in Poland, the Balkans, and beyond

Fellows' Voices



“ Being surrounded by journalists from all over the world has made me more aware of the various impacts of the challenges journalism is facing.
 Signe Ferslev Pedersen



“ Learning about working life for journalists in different countries from the other Fellows was a very interesting eye-opener.
 Ingeborg Rangul



“ My time in Oxford allowed me to see the world from a broader perspective. I had a unique opportunity to expand my horizons and deepen my knowledge.
 Patrycja Maciejewicz



“ The Fellowship has transformed my career from a regional journalist to a global one. It's been an incredible experience.
 Samuel Thomas



“ I really appreciated the time and space afforded to dive into my research project, meeting fellows from around the world and forming friendships.
 Charlie Brinkhurst-Cuff

Journalist Fellows 2023/2024



Ingeborg Rangul

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Norway
PLACE OF WORK: *Fagbladet*
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
SPONSOR: Fritt Ord
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The potential for constructive journalism in trade union reporting



Christina Anna Roman

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States
PLACE OF WORK: Immigrant Report
POSITION AT WORK: Founder
SPONSOR: Columbia School of Journalism
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Reckoning with media coverage of ADHD



Hagar Shezaf

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Israel
PLACE OF WORK: *Haaretz*
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
SPONSOR: *Haaretz*
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Covering conflict and the 'other' in countries with diminishing press freedom



Francisca Skoknic

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Chile
PLACE OF WORK: La Bot
POSITION AT WORK: Editor
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The looming threat (and possible solutions) to Latin America's foreign donor-funded journalism



Jun Suzuki

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan
PLACE OF WORK: *Nikkei*
POSITION AT WORK: Desk Editor
SPONSOR: Nikkei Inc
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Lessons in modern foreign correspondence from 19th-century Dundee



Samuel Thomas

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Nigeria
PLACE OF WORK: Taraba State Radio
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
SPONSOR: Laudes Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: What journalists should know about the farmer-herder crisis in Nigeria



Noelia Vetach

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Argentina
PLACE OF WORK: Aire De Santa Fe
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist & SEO editor
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The press vs. organised crime: lessons from Mexico for Argentina



Rebekah White

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Aetearoa/New Zealand
PLACE OF WORK: *New Zealand Geographic* and others
POSITION AT WORK: Freelance journalist
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to report on carbon capture



Oumar Zombre

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Burkina Faso
PLACE OF WORK: Radiodiffusion Télévision du Burkina
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist/Reporter
SPONSOR: UN-OHRLLS
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Unseen shadows: the plight of journalists in Burkina Faso's conflict zones



OTHER FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

Journalist Fellowship Showcases

For the second year, our Journalist Fellows scripted, rehearsed and presented three live journalism shows to encapsulate the findings of their projects.

Christmas and Spring Showcases

In December, four journalists presented a showcase that covered sustainable travel journalism, bridging generation gaps in the newsroom, why we need more female news camerapersons, and coverage of ADHD.

In the Spring, five journalists presented on the challenges of donor-funded journalism, lessons in covering organised crime, robust coverage of China's climate promises, how to deal with strategic lawsuits, and the effect of PTSD on journalists who cover West Africa's armed conflicts.

London Showcase

In our final term, we took ten journalists to the Frontline Club in London to present on topics including constructive journalism, saving local news, and how to report on repressive regimes when access on the ground is limited.

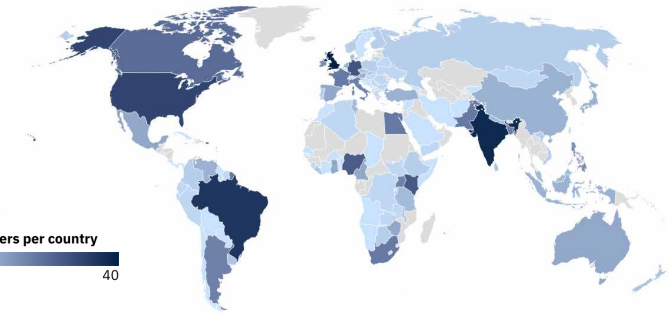


All photos © John Cairns



● The Oxford Climate Journalism Network

KATHERINE DUNN CONTENT EDITOR · OCJN



This past year saw the Oxford Climate Journalism Network (OCJN) grow into a fully fledged community, now composed of around 600 journalists and editors from over 120 countries and territories.

Our flagship course

The 2023/2024 academic year began half-way through our fourth cohort and COP28 provided a great backdrop for our climate conversations. Over 700 applicants applied for 200 spaces across our January and July cohorts in 2024.

In end-of-term surveys our cohorts consistently report higher levels of confidence in their climate reporting after the six months ended. We've also seen an increasing number of our members and alumni use the course as a jumping-off point to design in-house climate training, build or join climate desks, and build climate strategies, including strategies to cover extreme heat.

The OCJN Annual Event

In early May we held our second OCJN Annual Event, focusing on extreme heat and featuring

two days of speakers across sports, medicine, policy, urban planning, and journalism. We published a widely shared piece with takeaways from the event.

Leadership sessions

Our work with the leadership team continued to expand this year. Partnering with the Stanley Foundation, the OCJN and the leadership team hosted our first in-person climate session this September. A senior group of editors from outlets across Europe travelled to Oxford to hear from journalists, climate scientists, and leadership experts on climate strategy.

Advisory Board

In July, the OCJN announced a new Advisory Board, featuring partners from the Laudes Foundation and the European Climate Foundation; prominent climate editors and journalists representing the Pulitzer Centre, Bloomberg Green AFP, Carbon Brief and others; and climate scientists from the University of Oxford, Imperial College, London, and CORDIO East Africa. The board also features OCJN leadership and co-founders Meera Selva and Wolfgang Blau.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Manuel Flores walks on a dry area that shows the drop in the level of Lake Titicaca, Latin America's largest freshwater basin, as it is edging towards record low levels, on Cojata Island, Bolivia October 26, 2023. REUTERS/Claudia Morales.

ABOVE: A girl walks past the debris and mud following the floods brought by Typhoon Gaemi, in Marikina City, Metro Manila, Philippines, July 25, 2024. REUTERS/Lisa Marie David.

TOP: Map of OCJN membership since the launch in January 2022.

ABOVE: A child looks on while evacuees make their way on Tokar Road, following devastating floods, in Tokar, Red Sea State, Sudan, August 28, 2024. REUTERS/EI Tayeb Siddig.

External speaking and events

The OCJN team hosted or took part in a number of public speaking engagements. In June, Mitali Mukherjee hosted a panel at the DW Global Media Forum in Bonn on climate and elections, featuring three OCJN alumni from across Europe. In July, Diego Arguedas Ortiz, associate director of the OCJN, travelled to Colombia to attend the Gabo Festival, where he hosted a workshop on climate journalism in Spanish that was oversubscribed. In August and September 2024, Katherine Dunn presented the OCJN's work in Tbilisi, Georgia, and Stockholm, Sweden, at climate journalism conferences.

Global South Climate Database

We have continued to update the database in collaboration with Carbon Brief. The database currently includes 1,139 experts from across 103 countries, covering 90 languages.

Our in-person Fellow

Samuel Thomas, a radio journalist from Nigeria, was our in-person Fellow in 2024. Thomas arrived in January, published his project on climate change and conflict in August, and presented it in the Summer Showcase.

Climate news research

Our Research Fellow Waqas Ejaz published our second climate news report in November 2023, focusing on access to news and information about climate change in eight countries. We use the report for our own reading lists and in our presentations at outside conferences and speaking engagements.

● Leadership Development Programmes

FEDERICA CHERUBINI DIRECTOR · LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



In December 2023, we published our yearly report, *Changing Newsrooms*, which explores how news organisations around the world are adapting their working practices to external changes and internal dynamics, including the potential impact generative AI will have on roles and responsibilities in newsrooms. Based on a survey of industry leaders, the report looks at the strategies news organisations adopt when it comes to attracting and nurturing talent, as well as cultivating a diverse, inclusive, and representative culture.

Over the 2023–2024 academic year, 292 participants from 57 countries attended one of the 23 leadership development programmes we hosted, online or in-person, in Oxford and abroad.

Our programmes offer a safe, confidential space for news managers and media executives to meet peers from around the world and discuss the challenges and opportunities they and their organisations are facing. Informed by evidence-based research, our participants exchange practical insights and lessons learned while expanding their professional networks.

As part of RISJ work on the impact of generative AI on journalism, we've hosted a series of monthly invite-only AI show-and-tell sessions for editors and news media executives to talk through concrete examples of work they are doing with AI.

Many of our initiatives – our open-admission courses, as well as our invite-only Forums – take place behind closed doors, to maintain that confidential place where participants feel safe to share things that are challenging, alongside successes they are proud of. To contribute to the conversation with the wider journalism community, we have started a new newsletter series called *Spotlight on Newsroom Leadership*. Every month, we take over the flagship weekly RISJ newsletter for a deep dive on some of the most pressing issues for senior newsroom leaders, with original interviews with experts, reading recommendations, and highlighted tips and suggestions from across the industry. We have covered topics like mental health and wellbeing, running multi-generational newsrooms, and strategies to manage remote and distributed teams.



Leading Newsroom Change

I really enjoyed the combination of the more externally focused sessions and the business side of the newsroom leadership. The mix and the level of debate between participants really stands out.

Melle Garschagen, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, NRC, Mediahuis

Federica Cherubini and RISJ-colleagues swiftly cultivated such a vibrant 'community of practice'. It not only nourished our professional souls and growth in the moment but also laid a lasting foundation for all attendees. I highly recommend RISJ's leadership development programmes, offering an exceptional and enriching learning experience in Oxford.

Karlijn Goosen, Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Dutch public broadcasting company EO

Essential Skills for Newsroom Managers

I really enjoyed the 'leading with your legacy' part of the course. I hope it helps me find my purpose in the future. I also learned a lot about feedback culture, and I hope that helps me become a better leader. I want to thank the team involved in putting together this course - you really provided an amazing atmosphere.

Hannes Sude, Senior Manager, Sky Sports Planning

Research and Publications

RICHARD FLETCHER DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



A key part of our mission is to provide research to help journalists and editors across the world navigate a complex and changing media environment while also addressing the questions that matter most to media and communication scholars. Our research offers timely, accessible, evidence-based independent analysis of issues facing journalism and news media, published in the form of RISJ factsheets and reports, peer-reviewed scholarly articles, and books.

Our flagship publication is the annual *Digital News Report*, which explores how people get news in different countries, and how that is changing. This 2024 report – the largest yet – analysed news audiences across 47 media markets, and we were delighted to be able to include Morocco for the first time.

In 2024 we launched our new project on AI and the Future of News. The research strand of the project expands our empirical research on how the news media in different parts of the world use AI, how the public engages with it, and what they think about the use of AI in news. The project is supported by seed funding from Reuters for the first few months as we expand our work on AI, and with the Institute’s core funding from the Thomson Reuters Foundation. The first major report from the project was published in May.

In November 2023 we published our second report from the Oxford Climate Journalism Network, based on a survey in eight countries on how the public get news about climate change, what they think about it, and who they trust. The first peer-reviewed article from the project, which looked at the role of trust in climate misinformation, was published in the leading *New Media & Society* journal in May 2024. In 2024 we also published the latest editions of our factsheets on *Trends and Predictions*; *Women and Leadership*; and *Race and Leadership*, alongside two further factsheets on AI and work from the *Trust in News* project (which came to an end in 2023).

A sample of our research from the last year is included on the following pages. Many RISJ publications are available for free 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.

BELOW LEFT: A protester uses a megaphone during a protest against the government and to show support for the hostages who were kidnapped during the deadly October 7 attack, amid the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, in Tel Aviv, Israel September 2, 2024. REUTERS/Florion Goga.

BELOW RIGHT: A Palestinian girl carries cans to collect water as she walks by houses which were destroyed in an Israeli strike, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, May 22, 2024. REUTERS/Mohammed Salem.



BOOK

Avoiding the News: Reluctant Audiences for Journalism

Benjamin Toff, Ruth Palmer, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

PUBLISHED BY Columbia University Press as part of the Reuters Institute Global Journalism Series

RISJ REPORTS

Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2024

Nic Newman, Richard Fletcher, Craig T. Robertson, Amy Ross Arguedas, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

MAIN SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

SPONSORS: 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; YouTube

Strategies for Building Trust in News: What the Public Say They Want Across Four Countries

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

SPONSOR: Meta Journalism Project

Paying for News: Price-Conscious Consumers Look for Value amid Cost-of-Living Crisis

Nic Newman and Craig Robertson

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

Climate Change News Audiences: Analysis of News Use and Attitudes in Eight Countries

Waqas Ejaz, Mitali Mukherjee, and Richard Fletcher

SPONSOR: Laudes Foundation

BELOW LEFT: A woman clad in a burqa shows her ink-marked finger after voting at a polling station during the first phase of the general election in Kairana, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, India, April 19, 2024. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis.

BELOW RIGHT: Helen, a 5-year-old migrant girl from Venezuela seeking asylum in the US with her family, covers herself from the cold at the border between Mexico and the United States, in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, January 6, 2024. REUTERS/Jose Luis Gonzalez.



BELOW LEFT: People hang portraits of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny at the front gate of the Russian embassy as people attend a protest and vigil held following the death of Navalny, in Kappara, Malta, February 19, 2024. REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi.

BELOW RIGHT: Senegalese presidential candidate Bassirou Diomaye Faye cheers supporters up as he arrives to attend his final campaign rally in Mbour, Senegal March 22, 2024. REUTERS/Zohra Bensemra.



Changing Newsrooms 2023: Media Leaders Struggle to Embrace Diversity in Full and Remain Cautious on AI Disruption

Federica Cherubini and Ramaa Sharma

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Journalism, Media, and Technology Trends and Predictions 2024

Nic Newman

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Richard Fletcher and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

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How Many News Websites Block AI Crawlers?

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Amy Ross Arguedas, Mitali Mukherjee, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

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‘I’m Unable to’: How Generative AI Chatbots Respond when Asked for the Latest News

Richard Fletcher, Marina Adami, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

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ACADEMIC ARTICLES (selected)

‘The Electoral Misinformation Nexus: How News Consumption, Platform Use, and Trust in News Influence Belief in Electoral Misinformation’

Mont’Alverne, C., Ross Arguedas, A., Banerjee, S., Toff, B., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R.K. 2024. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 88(SI), 681–707. <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfae019>

‘Trust Is Key: Determinants of False Beliefs about Climate Change in Eight Countries’

Ejaz, W., Altay, S., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R.K. 2024. *New Media & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241250302>

‘News Participation is Declining: Evidence from 46 Countries between 2015 and 2022’

Altay, S., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R.K. 2024. *New Media & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241247822>

‘Shortcuts to Trust: Relying on Cues to Judge Online News from Unfamiliar Sources on Digital Platforms’

Ross Arguedas, A., Badrinathan, S., Mont’Alverne, C., Toff, B., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R.K. 2024. *Journalism*, 25(6), 1207–1299. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849231194485>

‘Domain-Specific Influence on Facebook: How Topic Matters When Assessing Influential Accounts in Four Countries’

Mont’Alverne, C., Ross Arguedas, A., Badrinathan, S., Toff, B., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R.K. 2023. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 3(2023), 1–34. <https://doi.org/10.51685/jqd.2023.014>

Editorial

EDUARDO SUÁREZ HEAD OF EDITORIAL



Throughout this academic year, the editorial team has worked hard to explore the future of journalism worldwide. We've published summaries and short video clips of every seminar hosted by the Institute and 125 original pieces produced by our colleagues and our regular contributors. These pieces focused on 64 countries, including some, such as Bangladesh or Guatemala, not covered by our academic research.

Our main focus this year has been the rise of AI in journalism and the impact it may have on the future of news.

We've interviewed pioneers such as Agnes Stenbom, Julia Angwin, and Uli Köppen; published essays by experts such as Zach Seward and David Caswell; featured case studies for the use of AI in audio, social media, and investigative journalism; and published nuanced pieces on complex issues such as the changes this technology may bring to



fact-checking, misinformation, and electoral processes around the world.

In August our colleague Gretel Kahn published a five-part series on AI and the Future of Audio, looking at five examples from Switzerland, Mexico, the Czech Republic, Sweden, and the United States. Kahn and her colleague Marina Adami worked alongside the Institute's researchers to learn how many news websites block these large language models and how they respond when asked about recent elections and, more generally, about the latest news. This is a fluid space and we'll keep reporting on new aspects of AI in the year ahead.

Our pieces have covered many other topics, including burnout and mental health problems among journalists, the appalling working conditions of freelancers and young colleagues, and ground-breaking projects such as Spanish sports site Relevo, Nigerian fact-checking site Dubawa, and German investigative outfit Correctiv. We've interviewed prominent media figures like BBC fact-checker Shayan Sardarizadeh and *New York Times* publisher A. G. Sulzberger. We've also reported on



journalism in the context of the war in Gaza, with our colleague Matthew Leake publishing an interview with Committee to Protect Journalists president Jodie Ginsberg, and pieces on the brave work of Palestinian journalists and on how Gazans got their news under attack.

While doing all of this, we've kept promoting the work of our research team and our Journalist Fellows on our digital channels. Almost every piece of research we publish is now fully or partly translated into Spanish by our colleague Abel Escudero, including our signature *Digital News Report*.

As a result of these efforts, our digital footprint has kept growing. Our newsletters are now sent to more than 26,000 people and the traffic to our website increased by 15% in the last year. While focusing on our most loyal audience, we've kept promoting our output more broadly: more than 50,000 people follow us on LinkedIn and 85,000 people now follow our X (formerly Twitter) accounts.



ABOVE TOP: Zaein reading the news on Korean broadcaster SBS. Image credit: Pulse9.

ABOVE: Reuters cameraman Herbert Villarraga, Reuters safety advisor Steve Kelly, Reuters safety advisor Ryan Evans [who was killed in Ukraine on the 25th August 2024], Reuters producer Asia Shtefan and Reuters photographer Clodagh Kilcoyne on Christmas Eve during a news reporting assignment on the front line, in Bakhmut, Ukraine, December 24, 2022. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne.

PREVIOUS PAGE: Fatma Kalso, mother of Issam Abdallah, a Lebanese national and Reuters video journalist who was killed in southern Lebanon by shelling from the direction of Israel, mourns over her son's body during his funeral in his home town of Al Khiyam, Lebanon, October 14, 2023. REUTERS/Zohra Bensema.

BELOW LEFT: Selina Cheng, the newly elected chairperson of the Hong Kong Journalists Association, leaves office after her employment contract with the Wall Street Journal was terminated, in Hong Kong, China, July 17, 2024. REUTERS/Tyrone Sieu.

BELOW RIGHT: U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich, who was released from detention in Russia, walks towards the members of the media, upon his arrival at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland, U.S., August 1, 2024. REUTERS/Nathan Howard.

REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORT 2024 LAUNCH EVENTS

Global – in partnership with Reuters

- Jane Barrett, Global Editor for Media News Strategy, Reuters
- Anna Bateson, CEO, Guardian Media Group
- Rozina Breen, Editor-in-Chief, the Bureau of Investigative Journalism
- Will Church, Director, Media Freedom Programmes, Thomson Reuters Foundation
- Rachel Corp, ECO, ITN
- Matthew Keen, Head of Strategy, Reuters
- Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ
- Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Director, RISJ

USA – in partnership with Reuters

- Kristina Anderson, Managing Editor, Google News Programmes
- Paul Bascobert, President, Reuters News
- Claudio E. Cabrera, Head of Strategy and Audience, The Athletic
- Ken Li, Global Industry Editor, Technology, Reuters
- Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Director, RISJ

Latin America – in partnership with Gabo Foundation

- Eduardo Suárez, Head of Editorial, RISJ

Asia-Pacific

- Federica Cherubini, Director of Leadership Development, RISJ
- Yvonne Chua, author of the Philippines country page, *Digital News Report 2024*
- Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, Reuters Institute
- Reiko Saisho, author of the Japan country page, *Digital News Report 2024*

India – in partnership with Newslaundry

- Seema Chishti, Editor, The Wire
- Rupa Jha, Co-founder, Collective Newsroom
- Mitali Mukherjee, Director of Journalist Programmes, RISJ
- Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ
- Pooja Prasanna, Editorial Head of Reporting, The News Minute

Africa – in partnership with Code for Africa

- Federica Cherubini, Director of Leadership Development, RISJ
- Imru AL Qays Talha Jebri, author of the Morocco country page, *Digital News Report 2024*
- Linus Kaikai, Group Editorial Director, Royal Media Services
- Phathiswa Magopeni, Board Director, SABC
- Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ
- Chris Roper, Deputy Board Director, Code for Africa

DIGITAL NEWS REPORT IN-PERSON LAUNCHES



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Global Launch: Rozina Breen, Anna Bateson, Rachel Corp, Matthew Keen, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen.

USA Launch: Claudio E. Cabrera.

USA Launch: Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Ken Li, Claudio E. Cabrera, Kristina Anderson.

Global Launch: Rachel Corp.

USA Launch: Kristina Anderson.

Global Launch: Rozina Breen and Anna Bateson.



All photos © John Cairns

REUTERS MEMORIAL LECTURE 2024

The annual Memorial Lecture deals with a critical issue facing the news industry. This year the speaker was *New York Times* publisher A. G. Sulzberger. At the heart of his talk was the concept of journalistic independence. He also discussed fiercely contested issues such as trans issues and the war in Gaza.

Journalistic Independence in a Time of Division

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: **A. G. Sulzberger**, Publisher of the *New York Times* and Chairman of the New York Times Company.

MODERATOR: **Rasmus Kleis Nielsen**, Director, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.

PANEL: **Alessandra Galloni**, Editor-in-Chief, Reuters; **Zaffar Abbas**, Editor-in-Chief, *Dawn*; **Melissa Bell**, former publisher of Vox Media.



About Us

Governance 2023/2024

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.

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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.

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

Kate Hanneford-Smith, Director of Operations, RISJ

Helen Lewis, Journalist, *The Atlantic*

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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 one of the joint Heads of Department, Professor Nicholas Owen, serves on our Steering Committee.



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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.

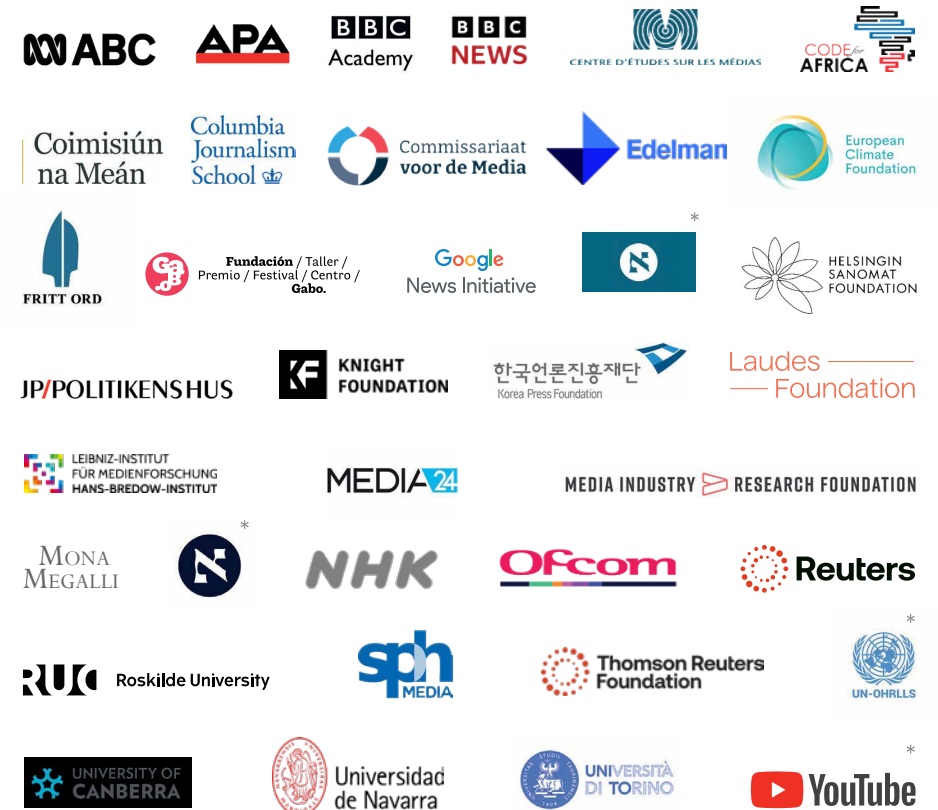


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In addition, we also receive grants, sponsorship, and donations and gifts in kind to support our research projects, events, publications, and the Journalist Fellowship Programme. We are most grateful for the generous support of all our benefactors in 2023/2024. Our total turnover in 2023/2024 was approximately £4 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

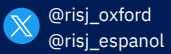




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