



Annual Report

2024/2025



RISJ at a Glance 2024/2025

JOURNALIST PROGRAMMES

24 Journalist Fellows

20 Countries the Fellows came from

200 Members of the Oxford Climate Journalism Network (OCJN)

80 Nationalities of the OCJN Fellows

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMMES

121 Invitation-Only participants

70 Open Admission participants

8 Bespoke Programme participants

RESEARCH PROGRAMMES

9 RISJ publications

6 Outside publications

EDITORIAL

124 Original journalism pieces on the website

31k Subscribers to RISJ newsletters

Contents

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

02 Prefaces

05 Director's Report

06 Journalist Fellowship Programme

16 Oxford Climate Journalism Network

18 Leadership Development Programmes

20 Research and Publications

24 Editorial

30 About Us

FRONT COVER: Palestinian cameraman Hussam al-Masri, who was a contractor for Reuters and killed in Israeli strikes on Nasser hospital on August 25, 2025, works at Nasser hospital in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip August 7, 2024. REUTERS/Stringer



BELOW: A Congolese child, displaced by recent clashes between the M23 rebels and the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (FARDC), prepares to leave camp after being instructed by the M23 rebels to vacate the camps on the outskirts of Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, February 12. REUTERS/Stringer

PREVIOUS PAGE: A person holds a paper lantern to release on the Motoyasu River, facing the Atomic Bomb Dome, in remembrance of atomic bomb victims on the 80th Atomic Bombing Day anniversary in Hiroshima, western Japan. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon

ABOVE: People walk on a bridge to cross the overflowing river Beas following heavy rain in Kullu district in the northern state of Himachal Pradesh, India, August 26. REUTERS/Aqil Khan



Prefaces

ALAN RUSBRIDGER OUTGOING CHAIR · RISJ STEERING COMMITTEE



And so, as Frank Sinatra once crooned, the final curtain ...

After a decent innings chairing the RISJ Steering Committee, I stepped down in the summer of 2025. But not before we had appointed Mitali Mukherjee to succeed Rasmus Kleis Nielsen as Director. Rasmus was a hard act to follow, but Mitali has shown during two spells standing in for him that she is an outstanding leader. I know the Institute will be in the safest of hands. I'm also delighted that Helen Boaden is to succeed me as Chair. As BBC Director of News, she held one of the toughest jobs in UK journalism. She's a woman of great integrity, intelligence, and all-round common sense. She and Mitali will take RISJ onto new heights.

The past year has demonstrated the necessity of the Institute's work. Four things stand out. The

Trump presidency has routinely trashed the truth while threatening established editorial norms and institutions. Such behaviour may – as our visiting fellows can attest – be normal elsewhere in the world. However, it is nevertheless shocking to watch a country that was widely respected as a safe haven for journalists descend into something ugly – and to see once-revered news organisations bow to pressure.

Then there has been the horrific death toll of journalists in Gaza – 200 or more as I write. The inescapable conclusion is that the Israeli government is either negligent about protecting the lives of the few professional witnesses to what has been going on inside Gaza for the past two years or has deliberately been targeting them.

Then there is the belated awakening to the threats and opportunities that generative AI brings to professional journalism. This will be a revolution every bit as dramatic as the invention of the printing press, the birth of the internet, or the advent of social media. Newsrooms are scrambling to educate themselves before it's too late.

Finally, there is the growing threat to our planet from the climate emergency. Journalists play a vital role in informing the public about scientific facts and the urgency of taking mitigating action. Without an informed public, political leaders face an almost impossible challenge.

In all four areas, the Institute has done invaluable work this past year. I'm confident it will continue to adapt, inform, and challenge. I'm proud to have played a small part in guiding the growth and development of RISJ, and will watch from the sidelines with keen interest.

HELEN BOADEN INCOMING CHAIR · RISJ STEERING COMMITTEE



It's an honour and a pleasure to be stepping into the role of Chair of the Reuters Institute's Steering Committee.

Thanks to the ambition and vision of my predecessor, Alan Rusbridger, I have inherited a clever, curious, and committed Committee as well as a highly energetic and inventive team superbly led by Mitali Mukherjee. I am grateful for the warm welcome I've received from Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations David Doyle and from the Thomson Reuters Foundation's CEO Antonio Zappulla, and for their solid support in ensuring the financial and institutional stability of our organisation.

Together we have exciting if challenging work ahead. When I was a novice reporter, a brilliant investigator on the BBC's *Panorama* programme told me, 'You have to report the world as it is, Helen, not as you would like it to be.'

And that just about sums up our mission at the Reuters Institute. We have an intrinsic commitment to delivering original,

contextualised, and well-tested evidence on subjects which matter in journalism, however uncomfortable or difficult the implications turn out to be. We appreciate that solutions to the many problems facing the profession can only come from a clear-eyed understanding of the challenges and from sharing what we have learned.

So we are not seduced by the idea of a lost golden age of journalism. Many of our Fellows come from countries and political cultures where the very idea of independent, evidence-based journalism has always been under the cosh. The rest of us have much to learn from their survival strategies.

Now we face the complexity of the evolving media world and understand very deeply how news and information are constantly being reshaped by technology, ownership, and politics. It's hardly a new problem: in the 1920s, the founder of the BBC, John Reith, acutely aware of the propaganda possibilities of the new mass medium of radio, argued for an independently funded news organisation to protect journalism from 'Force and Money – unfortunately the only two unfailing powers'.

At the Reuters Institute our Fellows dig deep into the various impacts of Force and Money as well as cutting-edge technology. A recent project by our Brazilian Fellow Carla Miranda, for example, exposed the impact that generative AI is having on newsrooms and revealed the knowledge assets they need to survive. It is this kind of work which will enable newsroom leaders to think through their strategies and educate their teams for the next tsunami of change.

We may be modest in size but our work has the power to make a difference. Thank you for supporting us.

ANTONIO ZAPPULLA CEO · THOMSON REUTERS FOUNDATION



In an era of profound transformation, journalism excellence has never been more critical. As technological advances and the shifting political landscape disrupt our information ecosystems, it is increasingly urgent that we protect the future of independent journalism – a central tenet of democracy.

But in a world where impartial, accurate information is often either undervalued or actively hijacked for malign purposes, independent media battle a sustained onslaught of challenges. Additionally, targeted violence against journalists made 2024 the deadliest year for the profession ever documented. Meanwhile, news organisations are braced for further attacks from hostile politicians, continued economic headwinds, sustained distrust in journalists, and the fight to protect intellectual property in the face of AI-driven platforms.

At the Thomson Reuters Foundation, we work to strengthen free, fair, and informed societies. Free, pluralistic, and independent media are core to upholding such societies, particularly when democracy is in decline. Without it, the powerful are no longer accountable, civil society is disempowered, freedoms are denied, and corruption thrives. This is why we have doubled down on our work to support independent journalism through our unique combination of media and legal expertise, and data-driven insights.

As newsrooms and journalists must adapt, innovate, and build trust in this rapidly changing environment, our focus is on equipping media professionals with the tools they need not only to counter these threats, but to shore up the future of the profession. We work to strengthen both the media freedom ecosystem and the ability of journalists to best reach their audiences with high-quality, public interest information.

This is why we continue to provide core funding for the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, home to world-leading research and journalism excellence. The insights and data produced by the Institute and honing of the skills demanded by the next era of professionals mark the RISJ's importance in shaping the future of the industry.

As we navigate these turbulent times, these collaborations matter. The exchange of expertise driven by the Institute better equip us all – from media freedom organisations to policymakers – to ensure that quality journalism can continue to serve democracy and the public interest worldwide.

● Director's Report

MITALI MUKHERJEE



Audiences expect journalists to be more impartial, more accurate, more transparent, and to *increase* the amount and quality of their original reporting. Equally, they have serious concerns around the news – that it is sensationalistic, politically partisan, and compromised when it comes to the influence of large businesses.

Both of these views coexist in a fraught year for journalism. The violence we have seen belies the notion that authoritarian pressure on journalism is something far away. News creators have upturned the landscape with content that swings between personality-led partisan commentary and sometimes being the only independent source in places where press freedom is constrained. AI is no longer an external tool to help build engagement but an integral part of newsrooms, and may even go on to be in charge of editorial decisions.

Against this testing backdrop, as new Director, I am grateful for the support of long-standing partners such as the Thomson Reuters Foundation and the broader Reuters

community. I am also incredibly proud of how our team has pursued our core mission, exploring the future of journalism worldwide through debate, engagement, and research.

The air of gloom and doom over the last year has made me think about why our work does matter. I see two reasons why we will and must continue.

First, in research, our findings help shape the work being done in newsrooms and whether precious resources are being spent on the right levers to build audiences. Our audience analysis touches every aspect of people's lives: the social media platforms they use, the impact of climate change on their homes, their fears about price increases, why they feel overwhelmed by the news, and what they are seeking from it.

Second, as journalists, so much of our work and original reporting look to build safe spaces to share challenges. Solutions for journalism will have to come from within. We need highly motivated journalists supported by a strong network of colleagues, access to resources that deepen their understanding, and a global platform to showcase their work. Solutions will also have to come from dialogue with audiences and voices from other industries that both inform and impact the future of news.

We are a part of the University of Oxford, and our work is tethered to the principles this University has been built on: freedom of speech and academic freedom are central tenets that must be robustly protected. Our work comes from a place of deep regard for the value of independent journalism and the importance of an informed public. Now is a time to remain focused on our work, which supports healthier newsrooms and a stronger connection with the audience.

Journalist Fellowship Programme

CAITHLIN MERCER ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR · JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME



This year's Fellowship wasn't just a pause from the newsroom; it was a launchpad.

Across three terms, 24 fellows from 20 countries used their time in Oxford to test, refine, and share ideas that are already moving into newsrooms, policy forums, and public debate around the world.

Their projects explore how journalism can respond to today's challenges – from how to cover populist rhetoric and climate catastrophes to loss of audiences and their trust – not just with critique, but with practical blueprints for change.

Alongside an intensive programme of seminars and guest experts, the cohorts travelled to London to visit the BBC, Context, the Thomson Reuters Foundation, and attend the Trust Conference. We also kept space for the Fellowship's cultural traditions: the annual tour of the Pitt Rivers Museum, punting on the Cherwell, and the Uncomfortable Oxford walking tour.



In the background, the alumni network has been alive with continued impact: fellows have been presenting their findings from Oxford to Bonn, winning major investigative prizes, publishing books, taking on leadership roles, and seeing their fellowship research taken forward in newsrooms and policy conversations around the world.

Next year's fellowship has drawn the highest number of qualified applicants in the programme's history – up 43% on last year – a clear signal of its growing relevance and resonance with journalists worldwide.

PREVIOUS PAGE TOP: *Fellows at BBC News.*

PREVIOUS PAGE BELOW: *Fellows with Jelani Cobb at the Memorial Lecture.*

BELOW TOP: *Election panel at the Rothermere American Institute*
BELOW MIDDLE: *Mental health impact of climate reporting seminar.*
BELOW BOTTOM: *Blavatnik School of Government 'Speed Salon'.*



THREE EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

This year's programme took fellows well beyond the Institute's seminar room, into conversations with policymakers, industry leaders, and new audiences.

Just 48 hours after the 2024 US election, the Election Panel at the Rothermere American Institute brought Republican strategist Mike Murphy, ABC's Jason Casellas, *The New Yorker's* Clare Malone, and Winant Professor Kimberley Johnson together to unpack the results – and to ask what role journalism can play in a polarised political climate.

In collaboration with the Oxford Climate Journalism Network (OCJN), fellows met Dr Anthony Feinstein to explore his research on the mental health impact of climate reporting. The discussion moved off the record for a frank exchange with OCJN members about the pressures and protections needed for sustained coverage of the climate crisis.

At the Blavatnik School of Government, a new 'Speed Salon' format paired fellows with Master of Public Policy students for two rapid

fire rounds of conversation: the first on Brazilian politics, and the second on revenue models, AI coverage, and the selection of expert voices. These fast-paced exchanges sparked follow-on collaborations that extended well beyond the room.

Journalist Fellows 2024/2025



Jazmín Acuña

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Paraguay
PLACE OF WORK: El Surtidor
POSITION AT WORK: Co-Founder and Editorial Director
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Change-centric journalism: reframing the value proposition of news for the AI age



Arlina Arshad

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore
PLACE OF WORK: *The Straits Times*
POSITION AT WORK: Indonesia Correspondent
SPONSOR: SPH Media
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: What Gaza teaches us about improving Singapore's coverage of race and religion



Masaharu Ban

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan
PLACE OF WORK: *Nikkei*
POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
SPONSOR: Nikkei Inc
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Japan's journalistic response to tech industry monopolies



Nabila Bana

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
PLACE OF WORK: AJ+ and other outlets
POSITION AT WORK: Digital Journalist
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: What news can learn from other industries about how to get vertical video right



Carla Miranda Barroso de Freitas

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Brazil
PLACE OF WORK: *O Estado de S. Paulo*
POSITION AT WORK: Senior Editor
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Knowledge capital in newsrooms: brand, audience, and talent in the post-platform era



Magnus Bredsdorff

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Denmark
PLACE OF WORK: *Politiken*
POSITION AT WORK: Climate Editor
SPONSOR: JP/Politikens Hus
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Has injudicious reporting of climate solutions damaged the climate agenda in the Nordic region?



Tom Edgington

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United Kingdom
PLACE OF WORK: BBC Verify
POSITION AT WORK: Senior Journalist
SPONSOR: BBC Academy
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Perceptions, power, and polarisation: the political impact of UK fact-checking



Niko Efstathiou

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Greece
PLACE OF WORK: LiFO
POSITION AT WORK: Managing Editor
SPONSOR: European Climate Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: From panic to preparedness: communicating wildfire risk in the misinformation era



Michael Hauser Tov

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Israel
PLACE OF WORK: *Haaretz*
POSITION AT WORK: Chief Political Correspondent
SPONSOR: Haaretz
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: A practical guide to effective coverage of populist politicians



Ngina Kirori

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Kenya
PLACE OF WORK: NTV
POSITION AT WORK: Broadcast Journalist
SPONSOR: Laudes Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: News for Gen Alpha: key content strategies and guidelines for reaching children



Maria Kiseleva

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Russia
PLACE OF WORK: Current Time
POSITION AT WORK: Special Reports Producer
SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Still listening: audience strategies of Russia-focused media in exile



Sashka Koloff

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Australia
PLACE OF WORK: Australian Broadcasting Corporation
POSITION AT WORK: Standards Editor
SPONSOR: Australian Broadcasting Corporation
RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Rebuilding trust: journalism's role in an AI-driven world

Fellows' Voices



“ I’ve learned more from my fellow Fellows than any workshop could ever teach me. Personal experience is the best way to learn something new.
Nevena Madžarević



“ It gave me the space I needed to think about the lessons I’ve gathered throughout these years and add more layers of meaning to them.
Jazmín Acuña



“ The people make the fellowship what it is.
Bongekile Macupe



“ An experience that is unmatched. A rare opportunity to recharge, returning to the newsroom reinvigorated and ready to take on so many challenges.
Carla Miranda Barroso de Freitas

“ There is truly nothing like Oxford. The Fellowship combined intellectual depth, personal growth, and a rare sense of community.
Michael Hauser Tov



“ Time to think, time to grow.
Katharina Schell



“ This has been a life-altering opportunity. It’s affirmed my trust that journalism truly has a future and we cannot give up on it.
Jon Kåre Time



Journalist Fellows 2024/2025



Davide Lerner

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Israel/Italy
 PLACE OF WORK: *Haaretz*
 POSITION AT WORK: Freelance Journalist
 SPONSOR: Columbia Journalism School
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: The patriot effect: Israel's shifting civil discourse under Netanyahu



Bongekile Macupe

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
 PLACE OF WORK: News24
 POSITION AT WORK: Deputy Politics Editor
 SPONSOR: Media24
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Why black African women leave South Africa's newsrooms



Nevena Madžarević

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Serbia
 PLACE OF WORK: TV Nova S
 POSITION AT WORK: News Anchor
 SPONSOR: United Media
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Bilingual broadcasting: how TV news is learning to speak to vertical social video audiences



Asmaa al-Omar

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Syria
 PLACE OF WORK: *Guardian* and other outlets
 POSITION AT WORK: Freelance Journalist
 SPONSOR: Mona Megalli
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Syrian journalists in exile: the challenges, lessons, support required



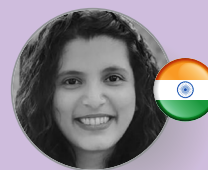
Lameez Omarjee

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: South Africa
 PLACE OF WORK: News24
 POSITION AT WORK: Climate Editor
 SPONSOR: Media24
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to get the most important climate story of the decade right



Ganesh Pol

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India
 PLACE OF WORK: BBC Marathi
 POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How digital video storytelling can best be used to cover India's rural issues



Sannuta Raghu

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India
 PLACE OF WORK: Scroll.in
 POSITION AT WORK: Leader, AI Lab
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Introducing the news atom: a blueprint for preserving journalistic provenance



Karen Rebelo

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: India
 PLACE OF WORK: BOOM Live
 POSITION AT WORK: Deputy Editor
 SPONSOR: Thomson Reuters Foundation
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to investigate the prejudicial use of AI and technology in the public sector



Anne Salomäki

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Finland
 PLACE OF WORK: Finnish News Agency STT
 POSITION AT WORK: Journalist and Sub-Editor
 SPONSOR: Helsingin Sanomat Foundation
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: Reshaping the journalistic narrative regarding non-human animals



Katharina Schell

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Austria
 PLACE OF WORK: APA
 POSITION AT WORK: Deputy Editor-in-Chief
 SPONSOR: APA
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to navigate transparency when newsrooms adopt generative AI tools



Jon Kåre Time

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Norway
 PLACE OF WORK: *Morgenbladet*
 POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
 SPONSOR: Fritt Ord
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: How to think about journalism in a world of experts



Wai Yee Yip

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Singapore
 PLACE OF WORK: SPH Media
 POSITION AT WORK: Journalist
 SPONSOR: SPH Media
 RESEARCH PROJECT TITLE: An eight-point guide to better collaboration with fixers in Taiwan



JOURNALIST FELLOWSHIP
SHOWCASES

This year we reimagined the Winter, Spring, and Summer Showcases as high-energy, interactive events – blending presentations, audience Q&A, and live polling to bring fellowship projects into sharper conversation with editors, policymakers, and peers.

In December, Michaelmas term fellows presented projects ranging from AI transparency to fact-checking’s political impact, Gaza coverage, climate change economics, and equitable treatment of local fixers.

In the Spring, Hilary term fellows spoke to a standing-room-only crowd – and with an overflow audience spilling onto the patio – about vertical video for rural audiences, strategies for Russian media in exile, and adapting TV content for social platforms.

Trinity term closed with a high-energy line-up in London. Projects ranged from AI trust frameworks and wildfire disinformation to climate narratives, newsroom equity, video

innovation, and journalism for children. The event at the Frontline Club drew editors, policymakers, and alumni for an evening of ideas already finding practical application in newsrooms.



All photos © John Cairns



The Oxford Climate Journalism Network

DIEGO ARGUEDAS ORTIZ ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR · OCJN



This year saw the biggest change to the Oxford Climate Journalism Network since its launch, with the creation of a new alumni programme. We also developed new initiatives on mental health and leadership, and deepened our work with reporters and editors.

New alumni programme

Launched in January 2025, the programme offers two monthly curated meetings for specific groups and a newsletter every fortnight to keep everyone up-to-date. This is the first time our growing community of alumni (700 members-strong by mid-2025) has had a programme tailored to their needs. Highlights have included spending time with former UN Climate Chief Christiana Figueres, and sessions with the COP30 President and with leading climate finance expert Avinash Persaud. We pioneered 'Show and Tell' sessions in which alumni share their wins – from newsroom strategies shaped by their time at the network to climate photojournalism and how to fund climate stories.

New cohorts this year

Two new cohorts of 100 editors and reporters joined us in our January and July 2025 intakes, growing our community to 800 journalists from over 120 countries that have taken our programme. As always, we balance rich expert seminars with intimate settings that provide member-to-member engagement. This year we launched new 'core group' meetings: groups of 10–12 members that met monthly and developed a rapport, a feature widely praised in cohort feedback. Highlights include sessions with David Obura, head of IPBES; Mavis Owusu-Gyamfi, President of African Center for Economic Transformation; and Ivan Couronne, AFP Future of the Planet global editor.

Leadership

From 18 to 20 September, we held a course for newsroom leaders titled 'Leading Newsrooms in an Extreme Weather World', in collaboration with the Stanely Centre for Peace and Security. The programme brought together 11 newsroom leaders from European media to discuss how their organisations are preparing to cover climate change.



OPPOSITE PAGE: Greg Cochrane, Engagement Lead, OCJN at GEI17 panel.

ABOVE: Launch of Ejaz et al. Climate Change and News Audiences 2024: Analysis of News Use and Attitudes in Eight Countries report: Mitali Mukherjee, Director, RISJ; Katherine Dunn, Content Editor, OCJN; Ivan Couronne, AFP Future of the Planet Global Editor; Waqas Ejaz, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, RISJ.

New initiatives

This last year we partnered with Dr Anthony Feinstein from the University of Toronto, a global expert in psychological trauma in journalists. With our support, his team surveyed 268 journalists from 90 countries (all OCJN alumni) in a first-of-its-kind study into the impact of climate change reporting on journalists' mental well-being. This was the first time that data were collected and analysed on the mental health of climate journalists. In May, we hosted him at the Reuters Institute to present the preliminary findings from his OCJN-supported research.

Spreading the word

Our work to raise the profile of climate journalism has continued, including an invitation to deliver a lecture on climate



ABOVE: Motorists ride past a damaged building after a strong earthquake struck central Myanmar, in Mandalay, Myanmar, March 28. REUTERS/Stringer

BELOW: A man stands next to stranded cars, following floods in Sedavi, Valencia, Spain, October 31, 2024. REUTERS/Susana Vera



journalism at TED Countdown, partnering with UNESCO for the climate-themed 2025 World Radio Day, and twice taking over the Reuters Institute main newsletter.

Research

This January we published the results of our third survey into climate news consumption in eight key markets, and we held an event in Oxford to present the findings to the media and the academic community.

● Leadership Development Programmes

TANIA MONTALVO PROGRAMME MANAGER · LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



In the 2024/2025 academic year, the Leadership team collaborated with 199 participants from 33 countries who attended one of the 21 events we hosted, online or in-person, in Oxford and abroad.

Our programmes focus on curating international communities to create a safe, confidential space for in-depth conversations to share experiences, knowledge, and learnings about the challenges and opportunities in the media landscape worldwide. We create spaces to learn from one another and have access to the most relevant research from the Reuters Institute and many other experts in the industry.

Working with other teams at the Institute, we hosted a one-day conference featuring presentations and panel discussions about the impact of an increasingly AI-driven information ecosystem, how this technology is reshaping societies, and what that means

for newsrooms and audiences. We've continued hosting a series of invitation-only AI 'Show and Tell' with media leaders worldwide to create a valuable space for publishers in digital news to discuss plans, concerns, projects, and opportunities with AI.

Both online and in-person, we've hosted high-level discussions about strategic priorities on a three-year horizon, including the plans for innovative projects, structural transformations, or business changes to face increasing challenges. One of those discussions has been how to lead and drive change to create new processes to integrate a climate perspective in your newsroom strategy, with our 'Leading Newsrooms in an Extreme World' course for climate editors.

The Leadership Development initiatives – open-admission programmes, invite-only forums, and bespoke – also cover discussions on audience, news consumption and avoidance, business sustainability, diversity, inclusion, and representation, how to navigate a crisis, team well-being, and strategic prioritisation.

Our newsletter series, *Spotlight on Newsroom Leadership*, continues to publish interviews, research, reading recommendations, and insights from other leaders to understand the issues senior newsroom leaders currently face. We have covered topics such as how to learn from projects that did not work as expected, how to build your learning career plan, how to respond to the climate-conscious concerns in your team, and how to create a culture of care.



Leading Newsroom Change

“One of the best events of its kind that I've attended.”

Hanah Rock, Editor of FT Edit, *Financial Times*

“The programme is well designed, extremely useful, and professionally led.”

Danijel Poslek, Editor-in-Chief, *Radio Slovenija*

“It was very relatable to my newsroom and I definitely intend to use these learnings to effect change in my organisation.”

Venga Subramaniam, Audience & Growth Editor, *Tamil Murasu*

Essential Skills for Newsroom Managers

“I enjoyed meeting my colleagues from around the world very much. It was very helpful to get an inside of their challenges, problems, and insights. The programme was very well-structured, and each module fits together perfectly.”

Anne-Christine Merholz, Managing Editor at *Ippen.Media*

“Brilliant to meet so many colleagues and like-minded individuals.”

Jonny McGuigan, Executive Editor – Growth, Social & Weather, *BBC*

● Research and Publications

RICHARD FLETCHER DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH



Our research helps journalists and editors across the world to navigate a complex and changing media environment, while also addressing the questions that matter most to media and communication scholars. Our goal is to provide timely, accessible, evidence-based independent analysis of issues facing journalism and news media, published in the form of RISJ factsheets and reports, peer-reviewed journal 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. The 2025 report covered 48 markets, adding Serbia for the first time, making it our most wide-ranging report yet. The 2025 report will also be the last with Nic Newman as lead author. Nic has worked tirelessly on the report every year since its inception in 2012, and we are very glad that he has agreed to remain part of

our research team, working on our annual *Trends and Predictions* report alongside other RISJ projects. We are also pleased to have appointed Jim Egan, a leading industry expert on the international news media, as lead author of the *Digital News Report* for the 2026 report onwards.

We continue with our research work 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.

In the last year we published a report on UK Journalists in the 2020s, based on data collected as part of the Worlds of Journalism project. The report, which features a range of chapters from UK-based academics, provides a highly detailed description of the work of UK journalists, offering insights into the profession that complement our extensive work on news audiences.

We also published a Knight Foundation-funded report looking at how people think about online platforms and democracy in eight countries, as well as the latest in our series of reports on the audiences for climate news across the world, as part of the Oxford Climate Journalism Network. In 2025 we also published the latest editions of our *Trends and Predictions* report and our *Women and Leadership* and *Race and Leadership* factsheets.

A sample of our research from the last year 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.

BELOW LEFT: A Palestinian girl looks out from the ruins of her family's destroyed house where she takes shelter, amid a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, in Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip, February 13. REUTERS/Mahmoud Issa

BELOW RIGHT: U.S. President Donald Trump meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy as U.S. Vice President JD Vance reacts at the White House in Washington, D.C., U.S., February 28, 2025. REUTERS/Brian Snyder



RISJ REPORTS

What Do People Want? Views on Platforms and the Digital Public Sphere in Eight Countries

Waqas Ejaz, Richard Fletcher, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, and Shannon C. McGregor

SPONSOR: Knight Foundation

Climate Change and News Audiences Report 2024: Analysis of News Use and Attitudes in Eight Countries

Waqas Ejaz, Mitali Mukherjee, and Richard Fletcher

SPONSOR: Laudes Foundation and European Climate Foundation

Journalism, Media and Technology Trends and Predictions 2025

Nic Newman and Federica Cherubini

SPONSOR: Google News Initiative

Reuters Institute Digital News Report 2025

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

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; Ringier AG; Roskilde University; University of Canberra; University of Navarra; YouTube

Journalists in the 2020s: Who They Are, How They Work, and What They Think

Neil Thurman, Imke Henkel, Sina Thäsler-Kordonouri, and Richard Fletcher, UK

CONTRIBUTORS: LMU Munich; City St George's, University of London; University of Leeds; Birkbeck, University of London. Part of the Worlds of Journalism Study



RISJ FACTSHEETS

How Generative AI Chatbots Responded to Questions and Fact-Checks about the 2024 UK General Election

Felix M. Simon, Richard Fletcher, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

Women and Leadership in the News Media 2025: Evidence from 12 Markets

Amy Ross Arguedas, Mitali Mukherjee, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

Race and Leadership in the News Media 2025: Evidence from Five Markets

Amy Ross Arguedas, Mitali Mukherjee, and Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

SPONSOR: Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism

BOOK

Mexico's Resilient Journalists

Julieta Brambila

Published by Columbia University Press as part of the Reuters Institute Global Journalism Series

ABOVE LEFT: A woman sits outside with her parrot as Cuba is hit by an island-wide blackout, in Havana, Cuba, October 18, 2024. REUTERS/Norlys Perez

ABOVE RIGHT: Palestinian militants surround hostage Arbel Yehoud, held in Gaza since the deadly October 7 2023 attack, on the day they hand her to members of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) as part of a ceasefire deal between Hamas and Israel, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip, January 30. REUTERS/Ramadan Abed

ACADEMIC ARTICLES (selected)

‘Exploring Perceptions of Fairness in News Coverage across 45 Countries’

Eddy, K. A., Fletcher, R. 2025. Journalism 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/14648849251362459>

‘The Link between Changing News Use and Trust: Longitudinal Analysis of 46 Countries’

Fletcher, R., Andi, S., Badrinathan, S., Eddy, K. A., Kalogeropoulos, A., Mont’Alverne, C., Robertson, C. T., Ross Arguedas, A., Schulz, A., Toff, B., Nielsen, R. K. 2025. Journal of Communication 75(1), 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jqae044>

‘Exposure to Partisan News and Its Impact on Social Polarization and Vote Choice: Evidence From the 2022 Brazilian Elections’

Mont’Alverne, C., Ross Arguedas, A., Banerjee, S., Toff, B., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R. K. 2024. International Journal of Press/Politics, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/19401612241292700>

‘Ritual Reinforcement: Habit, Emotion, and Identity as Attributes of Trust in News’

Ross Arguedas, A., Mont’Alverne, C., Toff, B., Fletcher, R., Nielsen, R. K. 2024. Journalism Studies 25(15), 1875–92. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1461670X.2024.2401403>

ABOVE LEFT: A man smokes a cigarette as he takes a break while rebuilding his burnt home following a fire in a slum area in Tondo, Manila, Philippines, November 26, 2024. REUTERS/Eloisa Lopez

ABOVE RIGHT: A woman with a child enjoys afternoon at kans grass flower field, at Sarighat area in Dhaka, Bangladesh, September 13, 2024. REUTERS/Mohammad Ponir Hossain

Editorial

EDUARDO SUÁREZ DIRECTOR OF EDITORIAL



Donald Trump's return to the White House has harmed journalism – and not just in the United States. Our original reporting has documented this powerful earthquake, which has reduced public funding for investigative journalism, shrunk fact-checking budgets and reach across platforms, and emboldened authoritarian leaders around the world.

Our reporters Marina Adami, Gretel Kahn, and Matthew Leake have explored Trump's impact on journalism worldwide this year. Their pieces have covered the influence of news avoidance and misinformation in his second victory, the damage his cuts have inflicted on public broadcasters and independent news organisations, and the uncertainty created by digital platforms' decision to retreat from fact-checking as a way to appease right-wing critics in the United States.

This has been the main focus of our original

reporting this year. But we have also reported on the changing nature of social media, news publishers owned by their journalists, gender inequality in Kenyan newsrooms, press freedom in Italy and Burkina Faso, the work of innovators in Syria, Indonesia, and Singapore, and the rise of news influencers in Kenya, Argentina, and the Philippines.

Our contributors have reported on the emotional toll of covering climate change and on newsrooms cutting their own carbon emissions. We have published articles on journalists covering immigration, infanticide, and wildlife, and even guided our audience through the intricacies of this year's papal election.

In April thousands of people joined our one-day hybrid conference on AI and the future of news, featuring experts from journalism and academia, and we kept covering the space with original reporting on different aspects of this emerging technology, from AI slop to copyright, biases, and elections. Our pieces have examined the performance of different large language models and featured experts



PREVIOUS PAGE: A demonstrator holds a poster featuring Reuters journalist Hussam al-Masri, Mohammed Salama, who worked for Qatar-based broadcaster Al Jazeera, Moaz Abu Taha, a freelance journalist who contributed to Reuters, Mariam Abu Dagga, who freelanced for the Associated Press and other outlets, and Ahmed Abu Aziz, who were all killed in Israeli strikes on Nasser hospital in the southern Gaza Strip, during a protest in solidarity with journalists in Gaza, in Sidon, Lebanon, August 27, 2025. REUTERS/Aziz Taher

BELOW LEFT: People attend the funeral of two journalists working for Kurdish media outlets in Turkey who were killed in a suspected Turkish drone attack in northern Syria, in Qamishli, Syria, January 6, 2025. REUTERS/Orhan Qereman.

BELOW RIGHT: A drone view shows people waving flags adopted by the new Syrian rulers during celebrations in Umayyad Square, after the ousting of Syria's Bashar al-Assad, in Damascus, Syria, December 20, 2024. REUTERS/Amr Alfiky

such as Karen Hao, Alina Trapova, David Caswell, Sandra Wachter, Eliot Higgins, Ramaa Sharma, Sydney Martin, Florent Daudens, and Sacha Altay.

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 translated into Spanish by our colleague Abel Escudero, including our signature *Digital*

News Report. This year we've made our findings even more accessible through new carousels, a few vertical videos and a video podcast featuring the authors of the report.

As a result, our digital footprint kept growing, with our newsletters now sent to over 31,000 people, our LinkedIn daily roundup sent to almost 29,000 followers, and our social audience growing steadily on Instagram and Bluesky.



ABOVE LEFT: A logo of Radio Free Asia is displayed in its office, following the termination of funding for RFA, which broadcasts in nine Asian languages, a day after U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order gutting the government-funded media outlet's parent and six other federal agencies, in Washington, D.C., U.S. March 15, 2025. REUTERS/Staff

ABOVE RIGHT: Riot police officers attempt to detain protesters who chained themselves demonstrating against what they say is a wave of unexplained abductions of government critics, along the Aga Khan walk in downtown Nairobi, Kenya December 30, 2024. REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya

REUTERS INSTITUTE DIGITAL NEWS REPORT 2025 LAUNCH EVENTS

Global – in partnership with Reuters



Jane Barrett, Global Editor for Media News Strategy, Reuters



Basia Cummings, Digital Editor, the *Observer*



David Rhodes, Executive Chairman, Sky News



Mitali Mukherjee, Director, RISJ



Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ

USA – in partnership with Reuters



Sally Buzbee, News Editor, Reuters



Kevin Ponniah, Regional Director (interim), Americas, BBC News



Carolyn Ryan, *New York Times*



Richard Fletcher, Director of Research, RISJ



Rasmus Kleis Nielsen, Senior Research Associate, RISJ



Latin America – in partnership with Gabo Foundation

Amy Ross-Arguedas, Research Fellow, RISJ

Asia-Pacific



Joshua Ogawa, Head of AI and Visual Strategy, Nikkei



Janet Steele, Media Professor, George Washington University



Beh Lih Yi, Asia-Pacific Director, CPJ



Richard Fletcher, Director of Research, RISJ



Eduardo Suárez, Director of Editorial, RISJ

India – in partnership with Newslaundry



Akash Banerjee, Host, The Deshbhakt YouTube channel



Ritvij Parikh, Senior Director, Product, Times Internet



Sannuta Raghu, Head, AI Lab for News and Journalism, Scroll.in and RISJ Journalist Fellow



Mitali Mukherjee, Director, RISJ

Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ

Africa – in partnership with Code for Africa



Ajibola Amzat, Africa Editor, Centre for Collaborative Investigative Journalism



Styli Charalambous, Founding CEO, Daily Maverick



Justine Wanda, Host, Fake Woke



Nic Newman, Senior Research Associate, RISJ

DIGITAL NEWS REPORT IN-PERSON LAUNCHES



Clockwise from top: Global Launch: Mitali Mukherjee, Jane Barrett, David Rhodes, Basia Cummings, Nic Newman.
Global Launch: Mitali Mukherjee, Jane Barrett, David Rhodes, Basia Cummings, Nic Newman.
USA Launch: Kevin Ponniah, Sally Buzbee, Carolyn Ryan, Rasmus Kleis Nielsen.
Latin America launch.
Global Launch.

Opposite page: AI event: Mitali Mukherjee, Director, RISJ; Chris Summerfield, UK AI Safety Institute; Victoria Nash, Oxford Internet Institute; Roxana Radu, Blavatnik School of Government.
Sheldonian Series on Truth: Kimberly Johnson, John Gilbert Winant Visiting Professor of American Government, University of Oxford; Mitali Mukherjee, Director, RISJ; Fraser Nelson, journalist, The Times; Moderator Richard Ovenden OBE, Head of Gardens, Libraries, & Museums, Bodley's Librarian and the Helen Hamlyn Director of the University Libraries.

All Photos © John Cairns



All Photos © John Cairns, except where marked



REUTERS MEMORIAL LECTURE 2025

The annual Reuters Memorial Lecture was delivered by the Columbia Journalism Dean, Dr Jelani Cobb, reflecting on the demise of local news, the reasons behind media distrust, and the troubling trends threatening press freedom during Donald Trump's second term in office.

Trust Issues: Credibility, Credulity, and Journalism in a Time of Crisis

KYENOTE SPEAKER: Dr Jelani Cobb, Columbia Journalism School.



MODERATOR: Mitali Mukherjee, Director, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism.
PANEL: Stephen Ansolabehere, Frank G. Thompson Professor of Government, Harvard University; Ritu Kapur, Co-Founder and Managing Director, Quint Digital Limited.



OTHER EVENTS

AI and the Future of News 2025

This one-day conference, hosted by the Institute in early April, looked at how technology is reshaping the news ecosystem with panel discussions on how AI is used in newsrooms, how it is being covered, and how it is impacting society as a whole.

The Sheldonian Series on Truth

Introduced by Vice Chancellor Irene Tracey, Fraser Nelson, Kimberley Johnson, Richard Ovenden, and RISJ Director Mitali Mukherjee discussed the role of truth in contemporary life, as well as the relationship between truth, news organisations, and universities.



© Cyrus Mower Photography

About Us

Governance 2024/2025

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, former 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*

Campbell Brown, Senior Advisor, TollBit

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 MD, Quint Digital Ltd

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, CEO, CNN

Jaffer Zaidi, Vice Present of News Partnerships, Google

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 (OUTGOING): Alan Rusbridger, Editor, *Prospect Magazine*

CHAIR (INCOMING): Helen Boaden, Chair, Windsor Leadership; Chair, York Theatre Royal; Chair, National Statistician's Advisory Committee on Data Ethics

Wale Adebawale, Rhodes Professor of Race Relations and Director, African Studies Centre, Oxford

Tania Boyt, Head of Administration and Finance, Dept of Politics and International Relations, Oxford

Federica Cherubini, Director, Leadership Development, RISJ

Sir Michael Dixon, Principal, Green Templeton College

David Doyle, Head of Dept of Politics and International Relations, Oxford

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, former Editor-in-Chief of Reuters and non-executive Director, ITN

Mitali Mukherjee, Director, RISJ

Gina Neff, Executive Director of the Minderoo Centre for Technology & Democracy at the University of Cambridge

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

Simon Robinson, Global Managing Editor, Newsroom, Reuters

Eduardo Suárez, Director of Editorial, RISJ

Antonio Zappulla, CEO, Thomson Reuters Foundation

Staff

Marina Adami, Digital Journalist

Tali Aharoni, Research Fellow

Diego Arguedas Ortiz, Associate Director, Oxford Climate Journalism Network

Priscille Biehlmann, Content Editor, Leadership Development

Lauren Brown, Journalist Programmes Officer

Federica Cherubini, Director, Leadership Development

Greg Cochran, OCJN Engagement Lead

Katherine Dunn, Content Editor, Oxford Climate Journalism Network

Rebecca Edwards, Digital News Programme Manager

Waqas Ejaz, Research Fellow

Paul Evans, Events and Administrative Officer

Lana Fisher, Finance Officer

Richard Fletcher, Director of Research

Kate Hanneford-Smith, Director of Operations

Gretel Kahn, Digital Journalist

Matthew Leake, Communications and Media Officer

Cheris Leung, Executive Assistant to the Director

Caithlin Mercer, Associate Director, Journalist Fellowship Programme

Tania Montalvo, Programme Manager, Leadership Development

Juan Morante, Fellowship Assistant and PA

Mitali Mukherjee, Director

Alex Reid, Publications Officer

Craig T. Robertson, Research Fellow

Amy Ross Arguedas, Research Fellow

Felix M. Simon, Research Fellow

Eduardo Suárez, Director of Editorial

Senior Research Associates

Alexandra Borchardt

Lucy Kueng

David Levy

Nic Newman

Rasmus Kleis Nielsen

Meera Selva

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

Visiting Fellows

Priya Sahathevan

Renee Kaplan

Caoilfhionn Gallagher

● 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 the Head of Department, Professor David Doyle, 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 2024/2025. Our total turnover in 2024/2025 was approximately £3.9 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





Phone: +44 (0)1865 611080

Website: <https://reutersinstitute.politics.ox.ac.uk>

Email: reuters.institute@politics.ox.ac.uk



/company/reutersinstitute



@reutersinstitute.bsky.social



/reutersinstitute



/reutersinstitute



@risj_oxford @risj_espanol