

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE IN THE AGE OF TRUMP

A Project

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Chapter 1: Introduction

I went to prison the summer after my junior year of college. It was a Bolivian prison, to be exact, and it was notorious for allowing children to live inside its walls with parents locked up alongside killers, rapists, and other violent criminals. It was a story I had stumbled upon while participating in an international reporting trip through the University of Arkansas. Although intense, reporting that story was one of the most rewarding and formative experiences of my journalism career. I had long considered marrying my two passions, journalism and international relations, but had never had the opportunity to do so until that trip. It was the decision to continue on that career path that ultimately led me to the University of Missouri, where I hoped to learn more about international journalism and gain the necessary skills to successfully report abroad.

While obtaining my graduate degree at Missouri, I centered my plan of study on international journalism. I completed multiple theory-based classes to immerse myself in broader discussions about the role of international news and foreign correspondence in a changing media environment. Through that experience, I became more familiar with how foreign stories enter the international news flow and the barriers foreign correspondents encounter while trying to do their jobs. In discussing those topics – as well as the dangers of parachute journalism, the role of fixers, and international news organizations’ changing business models – I gained a solid understanding of the deeper issues relevant to international journalism. Many foreign reporters are often required to make difficult decisions quickly in the field, so I thought it was imperative to know and think about those concepts beforehand in a safe environment.

My educational experience also emphasized the practical aspects of foreign reporting, and I took advantage of several opportunities to get hands-on experience producing international work. One of the most valuable experiences was reporting abroad in South Africa, where I investigated the contentious issue of racial quotas imposed on the national rugby team. It was a wonderful opportunity to put in practice the concepts I had learned in class. How was my inherent Western bias coloring my perception of the issue? Were my sources diverse? Was I covering not only both ends of the spectrum, but also everything in between? I believe my cognizance of those important questions led to a fair and balanced story about a problem that is anything but black and white.

However, it was the experience of working on an international story remotely in the United States with a counterpart in India that got me thinking about how I could continue to report global stories from home. International reporting jobs are scarce because of shrinking budgets that have forced many news outlets to shut or reduce the size of their foreign bureaus. And the instability of freelance work always made me nervous. But in working on the project, about the booming yoga industry, I learned that technology makes it easier for reporters in different countries to collaborate on investigative pieces. I couldn't help but wonder how many other reporters around the world were also using emerging technology to produce thoughtful and engaging pieces for an international audience. I began to consider how I could incorporate that question into my graduate research project.

Leave it to Donald Trump to ruin the best-laid plans. Before and after his election in 2016, his antagonistic rhetoric toward journalists created a host of new problems for reporters. Many people questioned what his election would mean for journalists in terms

of access, but for the most part, they have been allowed to continue working – albeit much harder and longer to keep up with the amount of news coming out of Trump’s chaotic administration. In all the speculation, very little seemed to focus on how Trump’s election would affect foreign correspondents and international reporting. Would foreign reporters be banned from attending press briefings like they were barred from attending his campaign rallies? Would Trump’s funding cuts to the State Department – which provides foreign correspondents with credentials, special press briefings, and reporting trips – affect their work? With a head full of questions, I decided to modify my professional project to find out how international journalists used technology and collaboration to cover the first year of the Trump administration. It is my hope that this project will offer a critical look at how foreign correspondence has changed since the 2016 election and provide best practices that will help foreign reporters overcome the obstacles of reporting on the Trump administration.

My professional goal is to become a journalist who writes frequently about international affairs and foreign policy. Eventually, I would like to earn the opportunity to report abroad on short-term projects or even work full time as a journalist in another country. This research project gave me the opportunity to take a step back from the fast-paced world of daily journalism and examine more closely how foreign correspondents complete their work. This project has furthered my career goals by not only connecting me with international journalists, whom I interviewed for this project, but also in furthering my understanding of how international journalism is practiced on a daily basis. To become an international journalist, I need to realize the unique challenges foreign correspondents face and discover how to overcome them. Learning about their daily

routines and the practical ways in which they approach their job has been an invaluable source of information as I start down this challenging career path.

Chapter 2: Activity Log

Field Notes Week 1

Hello committee members,

I've been in D.C. for a week, and I start my internship at Slate on Monday, Jan. 22. They launched a new content management system this week, so the internship coordinator, Megan Wiegand, thought it would be best to start a week later so she'd have more time to devote to my training.

In my initial interview with Megan, she said the intern rotates through Slate's various beats, such as politics, culture, technology, etc. I think it will be a great opportunity to get a lot of clips and write about a variety of subjects. I'm hoping to help with some sports coverage, too, especially when the Olympics start in a couple weeks.

I've stayed busy filling out the onboarding paperwork electronically from home. Hopefully that will make my first day go smoothly. I've also been reading Slate's content every day and thinking of possible story ideas to pitch.

I'm a little nervous about writing stories with so much commentary and analysis. Slate's voice is very different from the neutral tone I was taught in journalism school. I know I'll get the hang of it eventually. It will just be an adjustment.

The first seminar was yesterday. It was good to see everyone and get the syllabus with the schedule for the semester. One thing I found really helpful was the talk with Adam Aton and Annie Rees, who did the program in previous semesters. Hearing about Annie's experience was especially helpful because she worked at Talking Points Memo, which is a more opinionated news outlet like Slate. She had some good advice about how to work in that environment and helped ease some of my concerns.

Next week I'm going to start compiling a list of foreign journalists whom I could email about interviewing for my project. When I went to the National Press Building for seminar, I saw a couple foreign news outlets that could work, so that might be a good place to start.

Meanwhile, I've moved into my new house, learned the bus and metro routes I'll use on a daily basis and walked around the National Mall. I've enjoyed the time to settle into my surroundings at a more leisurely pace, but I'm ready to get started and get into a routine.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 2

Hi committee members,

It was great to get started at my internship this week. The first day was basically orientation. I learned how to upload stories and met the staff. Everyone has been extremely friendly and helpful.

I also learned more about my schedule and responsibilities. Tuesdays I'll write for Slatest, the political blog; Wednesdays I'll write for Future Tense, the technology blog; and Thursdays I'll write for Brow Beat, the culture blog. On Mondays I'll help out where needed or work on longer projects.

Two of the editors I'll be writing for were out of the office this week, so it was kind of a soft launch. I read the blogs I'll be writing for and brainstormed a few story ideas. I got my first [byline](#) for Slatest this week, which was exciting. I worked with editor Chad Lorenz on a story about the global #MeToo movement. He said it was a solid first story and that I did a good job making edits and addressing his questions.

I had a frustrating day Thursday, though, when I was working on Brow Beat. The editor sent me a story about a women's panel at the Sundance Film Festival and asked me to rewrite it as a short 300-word piece for the site. I read the article and looked at some other media coverage of the story. I also found a video of the panel that Sundance released on YouTube.

I wrote the story and sent it to the editor at 1 p.m. He didn't get back to me until 4 p.m. He said my story was too similar to other coverage and that he was going to kill it because it was too late in the day to rework. I know he was probably busy with bigger stories, but I was frustrated because if he had gotten back to me sooner in the afternoon with feedback, I know I could have rewritten it.

It was a good learning experience nonetheless. I'll have to be more creative next time and work harder to find a new and different angle. It was a little discouraging, but I suppose first weeks are for making mistakes and figuring out exactly what each editor wants.

This week during seminar, we spoke with Gene Policinski, chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute, about the First Amendment. One thing I found particularly interesting during the discussion was his view on media transparency. He thought the media industry is more transparent when it makes a mistake compared to other industries. Publications voluntarily issue corrections, while it's more rare for other companies to admit when they've done wrong — unless they get caught by a third party, such as a journalist, health and safety inspector, etc. It was an interesting point and prompted me to think about media transparency in a different way.

For my project, I started compiling a list of reporters whom I could interview. I have a preliminary list of about 20 names, but I'm probably going to need a lot more. I'm having

a really hard time finding personal email addresses. I could contact reporters via Twitter, but I'm not sure that's the best way to get a lot of responses. I'd welcome any contact information for people you know who might be willing to interview.

Best,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 3

Hello committee members,

I feel like I'm starting to hit my stride at Slate. It was a busy week, and I have a lot to report, so bear with me through this longer update.

The entire Slate staff was at a retreat in New York on Thursday and Friday, so I worked long days Monday through Wednesday to get my hours in. It helped that the State of the Union address was Tuesday night, so there were a lot of people working overtime.

I did a lot of legwork during the address. I primarily monitored reactions to Trump's statements and took screenshots of anything particularly interesting. I also helped fact check and tracked down information that other writers needed for their stories. It was a lot of behind-the-scenes work, but one editor credited me in a short post about Paul Ryan on Slate's [live blog](#). Overall, it was a fun experience getting to be part of the coverage for an important live news event.

I also got three bylines published during this short week. I pitched two, and one was assigned. One of the stories — about a [racial discrimination lawsuit against Walmart](#) — did particularly well online. It got more clicks than some State of the Union stories. I'm starting to recognize the stories my editors want, and I'm getting a better understanding of what stories will appeal to Slate's readership.

The other two stories were for the technology blog, Future Tense. I was most nervous about writing for the tech beat because I don't think I'm particularly tech savvy, but I've had a lot of fun doing it. The stories have been kind of quirky, and that's helped me develop a Slate voice. I've written a bit more playfully and thrown in a few jokes. I've gotten good feedback, so I'm feeling hopeful that I'm getting the hang of it.

One other small tidbit from this week: I was a guest on a radio show in Portland, Oregon. The host read my piece from last week about how the #MeToo movement is taking off in Kenya, Pakistan and China and asked me to talk about it on the show. I prefer to be the one asking questions, but it was a fun experience and a great way to draw attention to the story and drive traffic to the site.

This week during seminar we met with Katie Boyd at Sen. Roy Blunt's office. I have never been particularly interested in public relations, but I found the talk very informative because I know almost nothing about how communications offices operate. She emphasized the personal relationships that need to be developed between reporters and spokespeople. I've always found that to be difficult at internships because I'm only working for an organization for a short period of time. In theory, I know it can be mutually beneficial. It's a great way for reporters to get story ideas and a great way for spokespeople to learn about issues that matter to constituents.

We talked a little bit about the stereotypes surrounding communications offices. For example, that they purposely stonewall journalists. As frustrating as it is for journalists to work with uncommunicative PR departments, it was good to understand the other side's perspective. Katie gave some good and bad examples of how to ask for information, so that was a nice, practical takeaway.

I have some good news on the project front. I asked some international friends if they knew any correspondents working in Washington, and they provided me with three people willing to interview. Two are from China, and one is from France. The French reporter also provided me with a general email for other correspondents, so I'm going to try finding more interviewees through that address. I'm still in the process of scheduling those interviews, but I'm happy with the progress. Tomorrow I will begin sending emails to the other correspondents I've compiled through online searches.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 4

Hello committee members,

Another busy week here that was highlighted by a visit from Barbara. Now that I'm starting to get the hang of my daily responsibilities, we discussed pitching some longer-term projects and possibly working on some video stories. I'll start digging around for ideas Monday. Barbara also mentioned shadowing Slate's White House reporter, which would be a really fun opportunity.

On Thursday, I gave writing for Brow Beat another shot. If you remember from two weeks ago, my first story for the blog got killed. The good news is two of my posts got published. One was heavily edited, but the editor said I did a nice job on the other. I'm still getting the hang of it, but I'm celebrating this baby step forward.

Here are some of my bylines from this week:

[Local Arkansas TV and Radio Journalists Feud Over "Babe Bracket"](#)

[Quentin Tarantino has Apologized to Roman Polanski's Victim](#)

We visited Bloomberg BNA this week during seminar. Although professionals are the primary readers, the editors and journalists at Bloomberg really believe they're helping the general public because they inform clients who are in a position to make changes more quickly. I thought that was interesting.

It was also reassuring to speak with Bloomberg Law bureau chief Paul Albergo, who said that although BNA journalists report on very specialized beats, he likes to hire good reporters, not just people who have a background in a niche subject – like tax law. I'm assuming that applies to other niche publications like Energy and Environment News. Good journalists can learn on the job and are needed everywhere.

There's more great news on the project front. I've completed two interviews, one with a former correspondent for France 2 and another with a current correspondent for the Toronto Star. Both went well, and I thought that what they had to say was interesting. I have two interviews lined up for next week and another for the following week.

I've taken pretty good notes, but I'm going to sit down and listen to the recordings and clean up the transcripts a bit over the next week. I'm hoping that will speed up the writing process when I'm finished interviewing everyone.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 5

Hello everyone,

It was an unusual week here. I've been pulled from my normal schedule to help with Olympics coverage. It's a lot more behind-the-scenes work, but it's been fun.

First thing in the morning, I post links to a special Slack channel about topics we could cover. They're usually stories about NBC's coverage or events that happened overnight. Then I make the Olympic version of the daily newsletter that Slate sends to subscribers. I compile all the new stories and write one- or two-sentence descriptions that give readers a reason to click on the pieces. It's been nice to work on something different. Here's a sample: [Olympic Angle: Grief at the Games Edition](#)

Sometimes I get to write my own Olympic stories. Here's a newsier piece I wrote about Shaun White's response to sexual harassment allegations: [Shaun White Calls Sexual Harassment Allegations "Gossip," Then Apologizes for "Poor Choice of Words"](#)

During seminar, we met with Elisa Munoz, executive director of the International Women's Media Foundation, and IWMF fellow Kimberly Adams. We had an interesting discussion about women in the media. Kimberly said that in her experience, she found gatekeeping to be a form of discrimination. For example, men are still primarily the top editors deciding who covers what stories and what stories and photos are put on the front page. That can lead to people seeing the news in one dimension. It was something I hadn't thought about before, and I found it really interesting.

I am very interested in the IWMF reporting fellowships. The application requires three years of professional experience, but I'm going to remember and apply in a few years.

It was a frustrating week on the project front. The correspondent I was supposed to interview Monday never answered my call or responded to my follow-up email. Then on Friday, as soon as I arrived for another interview, the reporter emailed me saying he couldn't meet because he had to cover the indictment of Russian officials. It was unfortunate timing for breaking news, but luckily, the reporter said he was willing to reschedule. We are going to try to reconnect this weekend or early next week.

The good news is I followed up with two correspondents who didn't respond to my initial email. They both emailed back saying they'd be happy to talk. One interview is scheduled for next week. The other is the following week. Barbara also gave me the name of the bureau chief of Al-Arabiya. I'm going to try to find her email this weekend.

I thought I'd have two more interviews done by now, but at least I've made progress.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 6

Hello everyone,

I continued helping with Olympics coverage this week by writing the daily newsletter and pumping out sports stories. My story about an injury to skier [Gus Kenworthy](#) did really well online and was Wednesday's second most-read Olympics story. It was definitely a fluff piece, but I guess the saying, "If it bleeds, it leads" still rings true. Here are some of my other bylines from this week:

[American Women Used to Dominate in Figure Skating. What Happened?](#)

[Olympics Angle: No Tricks, No Treat Edition](#)

I also pitched a video story about the March for Our Lives gun-control rally in Washington next month. The video editors were definitely interested but said I needed to find a Slate angle rather than cover it as straight news. I'm going to brainstorm this weekend and email them some ideas Monday.

After a disappointing week with my project last week, I'm back on track. This week was really productive, and I completed four interviews – one with the bureau chief for Al-Arabiya; one with the correspondent for The Globe and Mail; one with the correspondent for The Times of India; and the other with the correspondent for Shanghai Media Group.

It's been really interesting to speak with these correspondents. Many of them have similar complaints, but their experiences are also really unique. As I've talked with them, I've started to refine my questions, and I think it will be an interesting paper when it's all said and done.

My interview total is up to six so far. I'm pretty happy with the diversity of the sample in that I've gotten the perspective of correspondents who write for media from most regions of the world. I've got a good mix of old and new correspondents, too.

To add more diversity, I'd like to interview someone who writes for African or South American media. I'd also like to include more female correspondents and correspondents who work for television or radio stations.

There's nothing to report from seminar as Barbara is in Missouri. I'm planning on using that time to transcribe my interviews. Next week is going to be another busy research week with three interviews scheduled.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 7

Hello committee members,

I was ready to get back to my normal schedule after two weeks of helping with the Olympics. In my weekly meeting with the intern coordinator, she said she'd like to see me work on more long-term projects. I had gotten caught up in writing dailies and had forgotten to pitch enterprise pieces. She sent me some examples that past interns had written, which was really helpful. I'm going to read through those and brainstorm some ideas Monday.

Here are a few of my bylines from this week:

[South Carolina Lawmaker Creates Gun Giveaway to Arm Teachers](#)

[What's With the Facebook Notifications About New Facial Recognition Features?](#)

The highlight of this week's seminar was visiting CBS for the Face the Nation taping. I had never seen a Sunday show prior to last week when Barbara asked us to watch one. I enjoyed watching the show and thought it was a good way to put the week's news in greater context. Through our class discussion Friday, I learned a lot about the show's purpose – to make news and provide commentary and analysis on the week's events.

With a focus on print and digital journalism, I've spent very little time in a television studio. When we went into the control room, I had no idea what was happening. It looked like organized chaos. It was an eye-opening experience that showed me how much work goes on behind the scenes to produce a show like Face the Nation.

I'm still plugging away on project interviews. One fell through this week, but I had two Friday. I have another scheduled for Monday. I'm hoping to wrap up the interview stage by the end of the week. A lot of the answers are starting to sound similar, so I think by the time I reach my 10-person goal, I'll be ready to start writing. I'm aiming to have a draft ready by the end of the month.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 8

Hello committee members,

It was a normal week here. I was busy with four stories and brainstorming for a longer-term project, as I discussed last week. I think I found one about exorcism schools that, although weird, would appeal to Slate's audience. We've written about this topic before, but not about the curriculum and the training that must take place for someone to actually become an exorcist. It also has a news peg with the Vatican organizing a conference about this topic next month. I'm pitching the story Monday, so we'll see how it goes.

There are times I still struggle to find stories that will appeal to Slate's audience. Editors turned down all my pitches this week, but they gave me assignments that they said I did a good job writing. I'm hoping for better luck next week with my pitches.

One other tidbit of exciting news, I'm going to work out of Slate's New York office for a few days in the coming weeks. I think it will be a great opportunity to network and get a better idea of how the company operates.

Here are some of my bylines from this week: [Freeform's #NotSorry Campaign for International Women's Day Is Hardly Empowering](#)

[Conspiracy Theorists Arrested After Threatening Pastor at Texas Church Where Mass Shooting Occurred](#)

We visited Politico for seminar and met with Missouri alum Angela Greiling Keane. She is involved in hiring new reporters, and as I start to look for jobs, I found her career advice to be quite helpful. She mentioned that all Politico reporters are eager to "take down" officials, which was a little worrisome to me because it sounded a lot like "gotcha journalism." One cool thing that happened, though, was a chance encounter with the CEO. He left us with an encouraging message about how it is possible to succeed at producing good journalism that people are willing to pay for.

I had an interview Friday with a reporter from The Guardian. She wrote an article that I used in my literature review, so it was interesting to ask her questions about that. I have one more interview with a former D.C. political reporter from La Stampa. I'm Skyping with her tomorrow afternoon. After that, I'm calling it a wrap on the interview phase.

One last thing, Kathy Adams has been encouraging us to start scheduling our defenses. Barbara will be in town Tuesday, April 24 and Wednesday, April 25. If those dates work for everyone, could you all send me your availability, and I'll see what times could work.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 9

Hello committee members,

The national school walkouts kept me busy this week, but it was fun to cover this topic for Slate. On Wednesday, I tagged along with another reporter who was covering a walkout in Maryland. I live tweeted from the event and took photos that were published with her story. I haven't had many opportunities to report from the scene, so it was fun to get out of the office for a while.

However, we ran into some problems with the school administrators. After getting permission to attend the walkout from the district communications office, the teachers wouldn't let us on school grounds or talk to any of the students, even if they had signed a media release form. The outcome wasn't as great as we had hoped, but we made it work.

I'm off to New York this weekend and will work from that branch for three days, Monday through Wednesday, next week. I'll be back in D.C. on Saturday for the March for Our Lives protest, where another reporter and I will be working on a video project.

Here is a byline from this week:

[Some Schools Will Punish Students Who Walk Out of Class to Protest Gun Violence](#)

During seminar, we went to USA Today and met with managing editor Donna Leinwand. Her background is in covering trauma and disasters, so she had some incredible stories to tell. Many of them were international in nature, so that also peaked my interest. The conversation was fascinating.

I really appreciated her advice on how to find fixers at local universities and how to begin reporting when dropped into a chaotic environment. Her approach is to focus on setting the scene and finding people who can humanize a story and make it relatable to a privileged audience in the United States. That method is often what is preached in journalism school, but it was valuable to hear about successful examples in real life. Even though many of her experiences were heartbreaking, I think she was doing really important work by making international news relevant to U.S. readers.

I finished the interviews for my project last week. I've taken a break to apply for jobs, but I'm still aiming to have a draft ready by the end of March or beginning of April. Beverly has sent me her availability, and Wednesday, April 25 is wide open. Fritz and Barbara, if that works for you, could you send me some times you'd be available that day?

Thanks!

Jaime

Field Notes Week 10

Hello committee members,

It was an unusual week working from New York, but it was a fun opportunity. I was even a little sad when I had to work from home because of last week's blizzard.

My favorite part of the week was getting to personally meet the writers I had communicated with only via Slack. They were very welcoming and showed me around. It was also a great opportunity to pick up camera equipment and meet with the reporter I partnered with for the March for Our Lives rally. Together, we met with the video editor for a brainstorming session and came up with a plan of action.

I covered the D.C. rally, and the other reporter covered the march in New York. I combined the footage in a rough draft and then sent it to her for tweaks. The video will be finished Monday, so I will be sure to include the link in next week's note.

It was difficult filming at the rally because it was so loud. I worried that speeches airing over the speakers would drown out my respondents, even with a microphone, but most of the footage turned out OK. The march was exhausting, but I had wanted to do a video project, and this was a great opportunity with lots of good audio and visuals. It was also just neat to be part of this national event while there's still a lot of energy.

Here's another story I wrote last week: [Weinstein Company Releases Harvey's Victims From Nondisclosure Agreements](#)

During seminar, we met with Keith Woods at NPR to talk about diversity in the media. He said diversity is a fundamental component of journalism because if reporters don't include diverse sources in their coverage, they're not being accurate. Although diversifying sources is something NPR intends to do, it's dictated by other coverage choices. For example, the organization has a preference for certain kinds of sources – professors, business executives and government officials – who are primarily white men, so it can be more challenging for reporters to find diverse sources.

Woods also said that journalists shouldn't include diverse sources solely for the sake of being inclusive. They must also apply the critical thinking that journalism requires. When journalists challenge claims made by minority sources, sometimes that creates conflict with the communities they're trying to include.

I didn't make a lot of progress on my project last week, but I did look at an example paper and started formatting my document. I also made an outline of the points I want to make and started pulling quotes I want to use from the transcripts.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 11

Hi everyone,

It was a productive week at work with five bylines. The video from the March for Our Lives went live Monday, and I'm really happy with the way it turned out. My two Brow Beat pieces were also received positively. Writing for that section is still hit or miss, so I'm glad I got positive feedback. The only downside from this week was that I had a small correction on my Future Tense piece about all the celebrities and companies who have left Facebook after the Cambridge Analytica scandal. I wrote down a figure incorrectly, which was a little frustrating because it could have been easily avoided.

I also sat down with the Slatest editor to talk about a timeline for a long-term project about disenrollment on Native American reservations that I pitched. I really like working with this editor, and he helped me find a new Slate angle. I wanted to do a longer, evergreen piece before I left, so I'm excited to get working.

Here are some of my bylines from this week:

[Why High School Kids Are Better Than Adults at Talking About Guns](#)

[Former Supreme Court Justice Wants Second Amendment Repealed](#)

[The Last Jedi Gag Reel Is Basically Carrie Fisher Repeatedly Slapping Oscar Isaac in the Face](#)

There's nothing to report from seminar this week because we didn't meet during spring break.

I wanted to send again the finalized time for my defense. It will be at 2 p.m. April 25 in the Global Programs conference room, 134 B Neff Annex. I started writing a couple pages of my project analysis last week. I was really busy, so I didn't get quite as much done as I would have liked, but I will have a first draft ready by the end of next weekend.

Happy Easter!

Jaime

Field Notes Week 12

Hello everyone,

Work is moving even more quickly now that I am in my final few weeks. I started my long-term project about tribal disenrollment and had several interviews for that. After doing more research, I decided to focus on reintegration, which hasn't been covered yet. I've found a lot of legal and academic sources, but I'm having a harder time finding people on the ground who have been disenrolled. However, I have a few leads.

The technology editor also asked me to work on a light investigative piece about why some credit cards have numbers printed on the back instead of the front. I had a really interesting interview with an industry analyst yesterday and have statements from two other sources. It's been a fun and easy piece that I'm aiming to wrap up Monday. Also on the tech front, I get to help with Slate's coverage of Mark Zuckerberg's Congressional testimony next week. That should be fun, and I'm excited to help.

Here is another byline from this week: [Trump Told Pruitt, "We've Got Your Back" Amid EPA Chief's Condo Scandal](#)

For seminar, the class helped with the Hurley Symposium. I found the panel discussion about the intersection of law and the First Amendment particularly interesting. They had so much to say about fake news and how it should be addressed by legislation. Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act suggests websites are not liable for information published by other parties. That facilitates discussion in the marketplace of ideas, but it also allows fake news to run wild. Some panelists thought the law should be more aggressive on that front, while others thought changing or repealing it would do nothing to stop the problem. Additionally, it could be dangerous to have the government decide what is true and what is false, which I thought was an interesting point.

We also went on an after-hours tour of the White House press briefing room hosted by Major Garrett. It was so much fun, and Major had such great stories to share. He tries so hard to be fair in his reporting, which I really admire. Although a journalist is obligated to be objective, it's easy to bash Trump for his attacks on the media. Major really went out of his way to defend the president when it was warranted. I also found his view on the importance of local media to be really encouraging. I'm applying for jobs at a lot of local papers, and it's always good to be reminded that that work matters.

I've made a lot of progress on my project report this week, and I plan on getting a lot done this weekend. Adding my clips and transcripts and formatting all the necessary parts took a little bit longer than I expected, but I'm pleased with where I'm at. I'm still aiming to finish by the end of the weekend, but I may need a few days next week to wrap up.

Until next time,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 13

Hi committee members,

It was another very busy week at work because of Mark Zuckerberg's Congressional hearings. I was pulled from my usual schedule to help with that on Tuesday and Wednesday, and I was assigned to write several quick hitters about his interactions with members of Congress. It was a lot of work because the hearings lasted a total of 10 hours, but it was a great opportunity to practice covering a live event. I got three good clips out of the experience, and they all performed really well online. My editors said I did a great job, and I'm glad I was able to help. The experience was pretty educational, too, because I had never watched a hearing like that before. It was interesting to see how it all worked, and I think that familiarity will come in handy if I'm asked to cover another hearing at the state or local level in the future.

I also submitted one of the long-term projects I had been working on, so I'm looking forward to editing that and getting it published this week. The really big project I'm working on about tribal disenrollment is still ongoing, but I've finished all the interviews and am going to work on writing the draft Monday.

Here are a few of my bylines from this week:

[Sen. Dick Durbin Proves Mark Zuckerberg Is As Awkward As the Rest of Us](#)

[Lawmakers Press Mark Zuckerberg on Facebook's Diversity Problem](#)

For seminar, Barbara saved the best visit for last. We went to The Washington Post and met with some Mizzou alums to talk about the paper's investigative unit. They talked a lot about the work that went into creating The Post's police shooting database, which was a good example of how they choose stories to cover and how they collect data and information for a project. Although the project started in 2015 after the Michael Brown shooting, the team decided to keep it updated with new information. That decision really exemplified how they view investigative journalism as a public service. Overall, it was an interesting discussion, and it was fun to be in such a storied newsroom.

I finished my project report this week, and Fritz has given me the green light to send it to the rest of you. I'll send it right after this note, so look for it in your inbox shortly. I'm glad to be passing it from my hands and into yours.

Best,

Jaime

Field Notes Week 14

Hello everyone,

I finished my two long-term stories at work this week. They were both a lot of work, so that was a relief. The one explaining why [credit card numbers](#) are now printed on the back of cards instead of the front went crazy online, and it was Wednesday's top story. The other piece about tribal disenrollment will likely be published after I return from defending my project in Missouri. My editor needed a few days to look at it because it's quite lengthy. It's easy to get lost in long, complicated stories, so I'm looking forward to his feedback about what sections to cut and what details to add. Other than that, it was business as usual.

The seminar met for the last time this week so we could take the final. I think it went OK and it was a good opportunity to reflect on everything I've learned this semester. It's been full of so many great experiences, and I've really enjoyed our newsroom visits and discussions. It was the best way to be in school without feeling like I'm in school.

It's been nice to have a little break from the project this week. I made a few tweaks by adding this note, and I will add the evaluation from my supervisor when she finishes. Other than that, I haven't made any changes. I'm looking forward to your feedback at my defense next week. Just a reminder, it's at 2 p.m. April 25 in 134B Neff Annex.

One last piece of exciting news: I accepted a job offer at the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette in Little Rock. I'll be working as a multimedia journalist for the online team under the same person who supervised my internship there two years ago. I start May 29, and I'm excited to be back in a newsroom full of so many great people.

See you all soon!

Jaime

Chapter 3: Evaluation

My internship at Slate was a valuable learning experience for me, and I grew so much as a professional journalist because I was pushed beyond my comfort zone. There was much to learn about how a solely digital magazine operates because I have worked primarily in newspapers. For example, I noticed a greater emphasis on writing eye-catching headlines, clickable social media posts, and strong search engine optimization descriptions. Learning how those elements worked together to drive traffic was important in expanding the reach of my stories, and it will be a valuable skill as I transition to other jobs. At Slate, I also noticed an increased focus on providing context and background information in news stories, which is much easier to include at an online publication that is not constrained by space. As a result, stories took me longer to write because more research was involved. However, adding context is an important and responsible part of journalism that is often lost in daily news writing, so I was grateful for the opportunity to write such stories.

However, there were times I struggled to understand the place of a liberal opinion magazine in the media environment. Does a magazine like Slate feed the idea of liberal media bias? Objective media is important, but that does not mean a publication like Slate lacks value. I grew to appreciate Slate's role in providing analysis and commentary because I think it is an important part of journalism today. Consumers should not only be aware of the news, they also need to understand its implications and the effects it could have on their daily lives. Publications like Slate, which acknowledge their bias but still practice responsible journalism, fill a need and meet a demand in this new digital age.

Much of my time at Slate was spent writing for the politics, technology, and culture blogs. I think I excelled at writing for the political blog because it was similar to work I had done in the past. But writing for the technology blog, Future Tense, and the culture blog, Brow Beat, was more challenging because I had never covered those beats. Of the two, writing for Future Tense came the most naturally because stories for that section focused on the intersection of technology and policy. I was asked to think more broadly about the ethical issues that emerging technology raises and how that affects society and policy. I thought that was a unique and helpful way to approach technology reporting that, thankfully, did not require an in-depth knowledge of cryptocurrencies or self-driving cars, as I had originally feared. I struggled at first to identify stories to pitch for the section. I would see an article about a cool piece of new technology without thinking of the bigger picture. Several of my pitches were rejected, but in working more closely with my editor, I improved on identifying stories that would be a good fit for the section. Slate's approach to technology reporting appealed to me, and I was surprised by how much I enjoyed writing for the section. It was a great opportunity to learn more about the tech industry and gain clips while covering an important and popular beat.

One of the most difficult aspects of the internship was writing for Slate's culture blog, Brow Beat. I was so off track with my first story that it never got published because it was too similar to other coverage. There was no witty humor or added value that Slate likes to provide. I improved considerably with time, even getting good feedback from my editors, but I never warmed to the section as I did with Future Tense. Slate's culture writing is quite popular, and some of my top stories from the internship were for Brow Beat, but I never felt like the stories I wrote really mattered or made a difference. They

were fun, to be sure, but I missed more hard-hitting news. I'm grateful for the experience, and I still think it was valuable because it solidified my decision not to become an entertainment reporter.

Another big challenge was adapting to Slate's humorous and sarcastic tone, which often conflicted with the objective voice I had learned to use in journalism school. I had mastered that writing style through work at various newspapers and was initially hesitant to stray from it in the early days of my internship. Perhaps even more frightening was the fact that I was allowed to be opinionated in my writing. I reminded myself that I was at Slate to learn, which meant attempting a new writing style, even if it was hard and uncomfortable. I started with baby steps, and in the end, I found a method that allowed me to be playful while staying true to my journalistic roots. Instead of writing full-scale opinion pieces, I simply added a few sentences of commentary and analysis throughout my stories. I also practiced writing more loosely by adding jokes or opening with a clever lede. It never came naturally, but it did get easier as I practiced and became more familiar with Slate's style. It helped that my editors were extremely nice and patient with me as I learned. I felt more comfortable taking risks under their gentle instruction, and because humor and opinion make Slate's coverage stand out, they seemed pleased when I took that extra step. Although I still prefer the neutral voice of traditional journalism, writing in Slate's style forced me to think more creatively and learn a new skill that I can add to my list of abilities.

Overall, I am pleased with the work I produced this semester. Slate gives its interns a lot of freedom, so I had to take more initiative in pitching stories than I had at previous internships. I entered with the goal of writing at least one story a week, and I

easily surpassed that number. Over 14 weeks, from Jan. 22 to May 4, I produced more than 30 stories about a variety of topics that received a lot of positive feedback. My edits were usually light, and my editors seemed happy with my work.

Working at Slate taught me much about how U.S. news organizations cover Washington for a national audience, but it was my project that taught me how to cover D.C. politics from an international perspective. Through interviews with foreign correspondents, I learned the unique challenges they face in covering the White House and the practical ways they overcome such obstacles. Their advice was useful for foreign and domestic reporters alike, and I could practice many of their suggestions while working at Slate. Having them talk me through the steps they take to report on an administration that is hostile to media, regardless of origin, taught me how to be resourceful and how to use technology to overcome access barriers.

While practically learning the basics of D.C. reporting through my internship and project research, the Washington Program seminars helped me understand political journalism in a broader context. Challenges for reporters abound in this political landscape. Fake news is rampant, public distrust in the media is high, and the president regularly attacks the institution of journalism. The discussions rarely provided conclusive answers to those problems because each newsroom we visited had a different function, a different audience, and therefore, a different approach to reporting. It was valuable, however, to learn and discuss the many ways reporters are grappling with those challenges. Each seminar brought to my attention an important topic in the industry and expanded my general knowledge of journalism's role in a democracy.

I grew a lot this semester while working at my internship, completing my project, and participating in the D.C. program. I am thankful for the opportunities I had to contribute to national reporting on so many important issues, such as gun violence, the Cambridge Analytica scandal, and Russian meddling in U.S. elections. It has been inspiring to see reinvigorated Washington journalists commit to covering a chaotic and antagonistic administration while tackling so many other important stories. The past few months have certainly reaffirmed my passion for journalism.

Evaluation From Supervisor

Jaime was the editorial intern in Slate magazine's Washington office from January through April. During this time, she [wrote](#) both short and long posts covering a range of topics, including breaking news, technology, and culture. Some pieces were assigned, while others she pitched.

Jaime was enthusiastic and eager to help during breaking-news situations. She was willing to take on any subject, even if it wasn't something in her wheelhouse, and report it out. We've never had a D.C. intern ask to work with video before, but she took the initiative to find a topic, pitch it to the video team, and produce the story. She also quickly picked up Slate's CMS and procedures—something that often takes interns several months.

Jaime demonstrated a strong grasp of writing and editing fundamentals, and her easygoing nature made her a breeze to work with. One editor she worked with regularly writes, "She was great at delivering clean, sharp copy quickly, as well as taking and following edit suggestions." Another says, "She immediately understood how to get the most interesting aspect of a news event without needing much direction on how to write or structure a post. She got to work quickly and efficiently, and met all her deadlines, only ever requiring one round of revisions before her final draft was ready for publication."

Her stories were also regulars on our internal traffic-monitoring program. One of her final posts, a reported piece on [why credit card numbers are now on the backs](#), racked up an impressive number of page views and earned her praise in a meeting attended by senior staffers.

The only thing I'd suggest Jaime could improve upon is communication. Two editors cited times when she didn't follow up on assignments or they didn't know where an assignment stood because she didn't reply to their emails or Slacks. In a busy newsroom, communication is key, and the editors said these situations were frustrating. In the future, I'd push her to make sure editors know she's received their instructions and that she follows up as needed, especially when working with new editors where she might not know their expectations.

Overall, Jaime was a delightful intern who shows immense promise as a multimedia reporter. I hope she enjoyed her time at Slate, and I can't wait to see what she does next.

—Megan Wiegand, managing editor at Slate and Master of Arts 2010

Chapter 4: Physical Evidence

Trump Told Pruitt, “We’ve Got Your Back” Amid EPA Chief’s Condo Scandal (April 3, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

President Donald Trump reassured embattled Environmental Protection Agency head Scott Pruitt that “we’ve got your back” amid reports that Pruitt had received a generously low rental rate on a condo linked to a powerful energy lobbyist.

In the phone call, the president encouraged Pruitt to “keep his head up” and to “keep fighting,” according to reports from [multiple news outlets](#). White House Chief of Staff John Kelly reiterated the message in a separate phone call Tuesday morning.

Pruitt’s future in the Trump administration is uncertain as the White House investigates reports that he rented a Capitol Hill condo in the first half of 2017 from the wife of an energy lobbyist at Williams & Jensen for only \$50 a night. Pruitt was renting the condo at the same time the firm was lobbying for a pipeline-expansion project, which the EPA approved in March 2017. The agency insists that the lease arrangement does not amount to a special favor regarding the pipeline—although it does appear to raise a conflict of interest.

The EPA maintains that its chief received a fair rate for the rental, but the lease was unusual in that it required Pruitt to pay only for the nights he slept there. He paid [\\$6,100 over six months](#) for the space, according to EPA documents, while property listings show that a typical studio or one-bedroom apartment in the same area would [cost around \\$2,000 a month](#). Furthermore, [ABC News reported](#) that Pruitt’s daughter McKenna, a White House intern, also lived in the condo during some of the same period, and they did not have to share the unit with anyone else.

The condo is just the latest example of the administration’s concern over Pruitt’s spending habits. He is also facing scrutiny for exorbitant taxpayer-funded travel, which is being investigated internally by the EPA and Congress. During a short span in June, Pruitt racked up \$90,000 in travel expenses—likely a result of his extensive security detail and multiple [first-class airline tickets](#), despite federal regulations that typically require officials to fly coach. It was also revealed Tuesday that Pruitt used a provision in the Safe Water Drinking Act to [increase the salaries of two aides](#) after the White House declined to give them raises.

The ethical concerns have increased the possibility that Pruitt will be fired, but the White House has, overall, been pleased with how Pruitt has [pushed Trump’s deregulation agenda](#) and pressed for the unfettered burning of fossil fuels. On Tuesday, Pruitt announced that vehicle [fuel emission standards will be revised](#), just one day after Trump

said he intends to scale back those regulations, which were enacted under the Obama administration.

Although Pruitt still has the support of the president, for now, the recent wave of ousted officials, from national security adviser H.R. McMaster to Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, should serve as a warning. The president is unpredictable, and his support is fleeting.

Walmart Required This Woman to Be Escorted to Buy Black Beauty Products. Now She's Suing. (Jan. 30, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

A woman who had to be escorted to a cash register to buy black American beauty products at a Southern California Walmart filed a racial discrimination [lawsuit](#) against the retail giant Friday.

Essie Grundy was shopping at a Walmart in Perris, California, when she noticed that cosmetics marketed to black women were the only ones locked in anti-theft casing.

“When I walked down the aisle and saw that Walmart had placed all of the African-American hair and skin products under lock and key, I had to pause. I was in shock,” Grundy said at a news conference Friday. To purchase a bottle of lotion, an employee had to unlock the anti-theft casing and then walk the product to the register before Grundy was allowed to touch it.

“I felt that I was being treated as a person who might be a thief, even though I have no criminal history,” she said. “I never want my children, or anyone else’s children, to experience what I did at Walmart that day.”

Grundy’s attorney, women’s rights lawyer Gloria Allred, said the plaintiff wants Walmart to issue an apology and to remove the additional security around its ethnic cosmetic products.

Walmart defended its actions in a statement, saying such measures are necessary to prevent shoplifting. “We’re sensitive to this situation and also understand, like other retailers, that some products, such as electronics, automotive, cosmetics, and other personal care products, are subject to additional security,” the company statement said. “Those determinations are made on a store-by-store basis using data supporting the need for the heightened measures. We take this situation seriously and look forward to addressing it with the court.”

Shoppers around the country have posted pictures and videos on social media of black American products locked up at various Walmart locations and at other retail stores.



SophisticatedBitterQueen 👑
@Kadia2_



If Walmart is gonna lock up hair products they need to do it for all of them not only the ethnic hair products

11:43 PM - Jan 21, 2018

👍 1,737 💬 1,115 people are talking about this

Others defended the practice, claiming it's common for a variety of products.

All this talk about WalMart locking up black hair care products and NO ONE wants to discuss Walgreens locking this stuff up? #Walmart isn't the problem guys. pic.twitter.com/NRM0UJsxgD

— Kristin the Boymom (@KristinFaller11) [January 28, 2018](#)

Walmart's Perris store is not the only location to be accused of segregating its beauty products. In December 2016, an [ad](#) sponsored by the United Food and Commercial Workers Union accused three community Walmarts in Virginia of discrimination for using additional security on black hair care products. Since then, all but one of the three stores has stopped locking up the products, according to [WVEC](#), an ABC affiliate in Suffolk, Virginia.

Nor is Walmart the only retailer accused of discriminatory practices against people of color. CVS shoppers have also complained on social media that the pharmacy chain locks its black cosmetics behind anti-theft casing. And in 2015, former detectives sued the company for racially profiling black Americans and Hispanics. The detectives for four separate CVS stores in New York City said in a complaint that their [supervisors encouraged them to watch black and Hispanic customers more closely to catch more shoplifting cases](#).

“CVS intentionally targets and racially profiles its black and Hispanic shoppers based on the highly offensive, discriminatory, and ill-founded institutional belief that these minority customers are criminals and thieves,” the lawsuit said.

Department stores [Macy's](#) and [Barneys](#) have also settled racial discrimination cases in recent years after allegations that security personnel detained an inordinate number of minorities on suspicion of shoplifting.

Jeffrey Tambor Is Officially Gone From *Transparent* Following Sexual Harassment Investigation (Feb. 15, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Following an internal investigation into sexual harassment allegations against *Transparent* actor Jeffrey Tambor, [Amazon Studios confirmed on Thursday](#) that he will not be returning to the show for its fifth season.

The official word from Amazon comes several months after the Emmy-winning actor, who played trans woman Maura Pfefferman, faced accusations of sexual harassment from two transgender women—*Transparent* cast member Trace Lysette and his former assistant Van Barnes. When the allegations were first reported, [Tambor told Deadline](#):

I've already made clear my deep regret if any action of mine was ever misinterpreted as aggressive, but the idea that I would deliberately harass anyone is simply and utterly untrue. Given the politicized atmosphere that seems to have afflicted our set, I don't see how I can return to *Transparent*.

At the time, Tambor never explicitly said he was leaving the show, and a subtle distinction exists between "I quit" and "I don't see how I can return." Now the distinction is moot. Even if Tambor wanted to return, it appears that the studio won't allow it.

"I have great respect and admiration for Van Barnes and Trace Lysette, whose courage in speaking out about their experience on *Transparent* is an example of the leadership this moment in our culture requires," [creator Jill Soloway said Thursday in a statement](#). "We are grateful to the many trans people who have supported our vision for *Transparent* since its inception and remain heartbroken about the pain and mistrust their experience has generated in our community. We are taking definitive action to ensure our workplace respects the safety and dignity of every individual and are taking steps to heal as a family."

David Chase Will Revive *The Sopranos* With a Prequel Film (March 8, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

The award-winning TV series *The Sopranos* will be getting a prequel film penned by the show's mastermind, David Chase. [Deadline reported Thursday](#) that New Line Cinema bought the screenplay for the prequel, titled *The Many Saints of Newark*. The film will take place in 1960s New Jersey "at a time when the African-Americans and the Italians of Newark were at each other's throats."

The announcement comes months after Chase speculated that a prequel could follow the mysterious finale, which aired in 2007. [In an interview with Entertainment Weekly](#) last year, Chase was adamant that he would not want to spoil the series' cliffhanger or retread the same ground with a new cast. However, the new script, co-written with fellow *Sopranos* scribe Lawrence Konner, leaves open the opportunity for crossover appearances from the show's original characters. None have been confirmed, but as Deadline points out, the timeline suggests that Tony's father, Giovanni Soprano; his wife, Livia; and Uncle Junior are the most likely.

No release date has been set yet, but Chase will serve as the film's producer, and a search for a director is underway.

Quincy Jones Is Really Sorry About His “Word Vomit” During Those Infamous Interviews (Feb. 22, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

You may recall that just a couple of weeks ago, two bizarre and brutally candid interviews with Quincy Jones were published in [GQ](#) and [New York Magazine](#) that instantly went viral. Among many other things, he claimed to have dated Ivanka Trump, that frequent collaborator Michael Jackson “stole” from other artists, and that Marlon Brando hooked up with Richard Pryor and James Baldwin. On Thursday, he apologized for being so loose-lipped about his celebrity friends, evidently after his six daughters staged a surprise family intervention.

In a statement posted on Twitter, the 85-year-old musician and producer referred to the interview as “word vomit.”

“When you’ve been fortunate enough to have lived such a long and crazy life (and you’ve recently stopped drinking – three years ago!) certain details about specific events (which do NOT paint the full picture of my intentions nor experiences) come flooding back all at once and even at 85, it’s apparent that ‘word vomit’ and bad-mouthing is inexcusable,” he wrote.

While Jones did not retract the controversial statements he made, he insisted that he “learned his lesson” and had already extended private apologies to those affected.

“I’m sorry to anyone whom my words offended, and I’m especially sorry to my friends who are still here with me and to those who aren’t. To my dear family and friends...thank you for your grace. Thank you for calling me out when I’ve clearly made a mistake...many mistakes. Even though sometimes it’s difficult to receive criticism or discipline (especially publicly) I want you to know I hear you. So, I encourage you all to please grow with me and keep on keepin’ on.”

In closing, he said: “Love an 85-year-old bow-legged man who is still learning from his mistakes.”

***The Last Jedi* Gag Reel Is Basically Carrie Fisher Repeatedly Slapping Oscar Isaac in the Face (March 29, 2018)**

By Jaime Dunaway

Disney released a “blooper reel” for *The Last Jedi* on Wednesday, but it mostly consists of Carrie Fisher slapping Oscar Isaac again and again across the face. A third of the 1-minute-and-30-second video is comprised of various takes of Fisher as General Organa slapping Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac). She hits him 41 times, to be exact.

The gag reel, published to celebrate the film’s release on Blu-ray and DVD, shows Daisy Ridley breaking character as Rey during a serious scene, giggle fits from John Boyega as Finn and Kelly Marie Tran as Rose, and a miniature BB-8. (Did BB-8 have a baby in space?) Although the galaxy remains in imminent danger of being controlled by the First Order, it appears the cast had a lot of fun on set—except, perhaps, for Isaac. May the force be with him.

Congratulations to Gus Kenworthy for Having the Grossest Injury of the Olympics (Feb. 21, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

After winning a silver medal in freestyle skiing at the 2014 Sochi Games, Gus Kenworthy failed to make the podium in Pyeongchang, placing 12th in the men’s slopestyle final. Once you gaze upon the blood-filled lump that hindered his run, however, you’ll understand it was a miracle he competed at all.



In an interview with [USA Today](#), Kenworthy said the hematoma, which extends from his waist to his thigh, had to be drained in a gory and painful process:

It was disgusting. It also hurt so bad because they didn't do anything for it. In order to drain it, they had to keep moving the needle around in the skin and kind of twisting it and pushing it up and down, so that hurt. They didn't know how much blood they were going to get out of it, so they had to keep switching the cartridge, and it ended up being 140 (cubic centimeters) of blood. In between cartridges, when they were switching it over, the little bit that was still in my skin was just spraying blood, which was just disgusting. There was so much blood.

Kenworthy, who also competed with a broken thumb, referred to his butt-adjacent injury as a “bruised peach” in Tuesday’s Instagram post. On Twitter, the 26-year-old skier made a reference to [the famed fruit-based masturbation scene](#) in the coming-of-age movie *Call Me by Your Name*.



Gus Kenworthy ✓
@guskenworthy

Follow

A peach hasn't been this destroyed since
Timothée Chalamet in Call Me by Your Name.



The Pyeongchang Games haven't been totally painful for Kenworthy. The Olympian, who came out as gay in 2015, shared an [on-air kiss](#), fulfilling his dream to be an out athlete with a “TV boyfriend.”

At Least Four People Dead After “First of Its Kind” Bridge Collapses Onto Drivers in Miami (March 15, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

An unfinished pedestrian bridge in Miami collapsed just before 2 p.m. Thursday, killing [at least four people](#) and crushing others in their cars underneath. The Miami-Dade

County fire chief also confirmed that [nine people were taken to the hospital](#), according to CNN.

The cause of the collapse is unclear. The bridge was built using a [new technique developed at nearby Florida International University](#) that was supposed to minimize traffic disruptions and reduce risks to workers, commuters, and pedestrians. The span of bridge was built along the side of the road while support towers were placed on either side. Construction had just passed a major milestone: Over several hours Saturday morning, the 950-ton span was elevated, rotated 90 degrees, and lowered onto its permanent position between the two towers.

The \$14.2 million bridge, scheduled for completion early next year, was intended to connect the campus of Florida International University with the suburb of Sweetwater, where a large population of students live. In a [Twitter post](#) after the section's completion, the university celebrated the project with a video and called the structure the first of its kind.

The South Miami-based Munilla Construction Management, founded in 1983, issued a statement on its [Facebook page](#), promising an investigation into what went wrong. FIGG Bridge Engineers, a Tallahassee-based engineering firm founded 40 years ago, was also a partner on the project.

Local Arkansas TV and Radio Journalists Feud Over “Babe Bracket” (Feb. 7, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

The Babe Bracket, an annual Arkansas radio contest that playfully pits female TV journalists against each other in a March Madness-style showdown, is dividing local broadcasters in a debate about the way the contest, sponsored by Seductions Lingerie, objectifies women.

The tournament, which airs on the sports talk radio station 103.7 The Buzz in Little Rock, came under fire last week when a local TV news director published a [blog](#) calling for an end to the 20-year tradition.

The hosts of the station's morning show, *The Show With No Name*, choose 16 women for the bracket and feature them in on-air interviews over two weeks in March. Listeners can then call in to vote for who should advance to the next round. Pictures of the contestants are included on the online [bracket](#) for listeners who may not be familiar with the journalists' appearance from live TV.

“The days of blatant objectification of women are ending,” Austin Kellerman, of NBC affiliate KARK and Fox affiliate KLRT, wrote Thursday. “And at the end of the day, whether it's meant to be harmless or not, that's what this is.”

Kellerman said the contest fails to recognize women’s achievements in the workplace and contradicts the image of participants as role models in the community.

“If you want to celebrate the women of local television, let’s focus on their efforts to get foster children into permanent homes, raise awareness for colon cancer, promote area groups making a difference, and tell stories that transform our state for the better,” he wrote. “They deserve to be celebrated—just not like this.”

Although women have opted out in the past, the hosts have said the bracket is an opportunity for journalists to promote their work and advocate for charity during a series of on-air spots. (Simply inviting them to speak on the show as guests apparently hasn’t occurred to the hosts.)

However, several former Babe Bracket winners said they failed to see the problem.

“If the Babe Bracket helps me promote things that are important to me, I would say, ‘Sign me up every year,’” KLRT anchor Donna Terrell told [the Associated Press](#). Terrell used her 2011 appearance to promote her charity that fights colon cancer, which took her daughter’s life.

The 2016 winner, Alyse Eady, now at Fox 5 in Atlanta, also tweeted her support.



Alyse Eady FOX 5 ✓
@alyseeadyFOX5



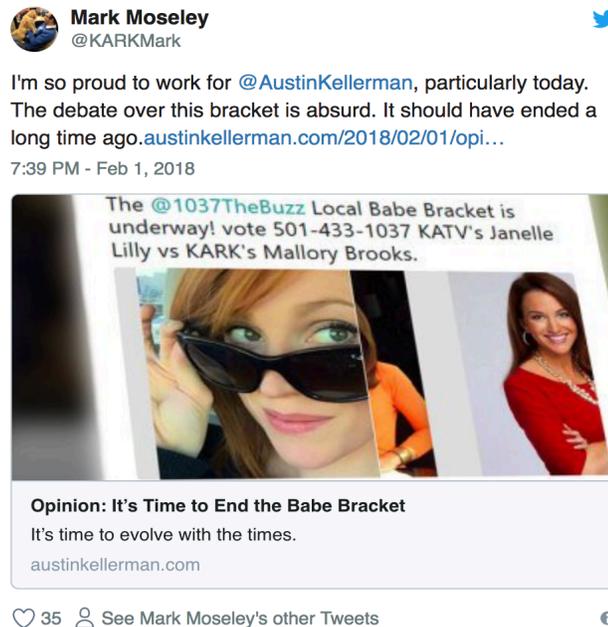
Sending hugs to the guys at @1037TheBuzz.

4:10 PM - Feb 1, 2018

♥ 96 👤 See Alyse Eady FOX 5's other Tweets

Many locals denounced Kellerman on Twitter. Some viewers rejected his argument, countering that broadcasters are hired for their looks and are already objectified by the stations they work for. Others pointed out that Kellerman's blog post coincided with February sweeps, a survey of local television stations that is an important popularity gauge for TV advertisers.

Several journalists and community members rushed to Kellerman's defense.



Among supporters were KARK executive producer Mark Moseley, Emmy-winning KARK anchor Victoria Price, and KARK morning show co-host D.J. Williams.



Despite the criticism, *The Show With No Name* co-host R.J. Hawk said the Babe Bracket would be back by popular demand in March.



RJ Hawk
@RJHawk



It's OFFICIAL....the Babe Bracket will be BACK for its 21st year!
[#ThePeopleHaveSpoken @1037TheBuzz](#)

8:20 AM - Feb 2, 2018

♥ 160 💬 39 people are talking about this



After the announcement, Kellerman [tweeted](#) that there's still time for The Buzz hosts to cancel the contest. Kellerman himself appeared on the show just two years ago to campaign for a Babe Bracket finalist who was a colleague at his station. It's a testament to the power of the #MeToo movement that even those who once tolerated workplace sexism can change their minds and join the fight against it.

Look It Up! (Jan. 30, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

When Trump got to the moment in his speech saying, "In America, we know that faith and family, not government and bureaucracy, are the center of American life. The motto is, *'In God we trust'*" many viewers noted that Paul Ryan pointed upward to the heavens, interpreting it as a gesture to observe God. Look closely, though, and you'll see Ryan mouthing, "It's right up there." *Up where?* He seemed to be pointing to the inscription above the rostrum, which Slate intern Jaime Dunaway confirmed indeed says, "In God we trust." When it was added on Dec. 19, 1962, "it represented another rebuke of the Cold War—era philosophy of the Soviet Union," notes the House of Representatives' history of the room's furniture.

Why the #MeToo Movement Just Took Off in Kenya, Pakistan, and China (Jan. 27, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Although #MeToo began in the United States and its high-profile American proponents have garnered the most attention, the movement is spreading to other parts of the world. Less than a month after Alyssa Milano urged women in October to post the hashtag on social media in the wake of the Harvey Weinstein scandal, more than 2.3 million posts from 85 countries existed on Twitter, [CNN reports](#). The most prolific #MeToo users reside in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Canada, but the social media campaign had been noticeably less visible in Asia, Africa, and the Arab world.

For example, during the hashtag's first month, [416 posts used #MeToo in China](#), a country with more than 1 billion people. The low number of posts isn't because [sexual harassment is nonexistent in China, as state media like to suggest](#).

Yet several recent, distinct episodes overseas show how the movement is making gains in conservative societies where talking about sexuality is still considered taboo.

In Pakistan, the rape and killing this month of 7-year-old [Zainab Ansari](#) sparked national outrage in a country where sexual assault against minors was criminalized only two years ago. Local and state police rarely intervene in sexual assault cases, and many rapists go unpunished. Victims, however, can be charged with adultery and imprisoned.

Ansari's death has led to a wave of #MeToo-style declarations from sexual assault victims going public with their secrets. Among those who have spoken out are Frieha Altaf, a former model and public relations celebrity, and fashion designer Maheem Khan. Both shared stories of abuse as children and challenged the culture of shame and fear that keeps many Pakistanis silent about sexual assault.

 **Frieha Altaf** 
@FriehaAltaf

I was sexually abused by our cook at age 6. My parents took action but everyone remained silent as if it was my shame. At 34 I realised how it had impacted my life.the only shame is keeping SILENT [#ChildAbuse](#) [#shame](#) [#NoMoreChildAbuse](#) [#MeToo](#) [#JusticeForZainab](#) [#HowToStopChildAbuse](#)

10:00 AM - Jan 14, 2018

♡ 3,816 💬 1,351 people are talking about this ⓘ

 **Maheen Khan** 
@Maheenkhanpk

[#childabuse](#) [#saynotochildabuse](#) [#metoo](#) The Maulvi who came to teach me the Quran abused me sexually .I froze in fear day after day .
Share in support of children subjected to the sick acts ..by so called custodians of our religion

10:03 AM - Jan 14, 2018

♡ 1,667 💬 796 people are talking about this ⓘ

Coverage of Ansari's slaying and victims' testimonies has prompted widespread discussion of sexual misconduct on daily talk shows across the country. The government, too, may have been jolted into action. Despite the absence of sex education in Pakistani schools, the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Marriyum Aurangzeb, has spoken in favor of bipartisan [curriculum that would teach children how to protect themselves from abusers.](#)

Progress has also been made in Africa, where the [World Bank](#) estimates that up to 80 percent of women in some countries believe domestic abuse is OK in certain circumstances. But the #MeToo movement has inspired a segment of the population that is denouncing attitudes that say women should accept sexual harassment and assault.

On Tuesday, [hundreds of protesters marched in Nairobi, Kenya](#), demanding a criminal investigation into Kenyatta National Hospital staff members who have been accused of assaulting new mothers. The march was organized after a popular Kenyan Facebook group posted the story of a new mother who said she was nearly raped while walking down a hallway to breastfeed her baby. Other members of the group responded with similar stories of misconduct.

And in China, the #MeToo campaign took a step forward when [Beihang University officials removed a professor](#) from his post as vice president of the graduate school after a former student now living in the United States posted her story online. A subsequent investigation found multiple instances of sexual misconduct against other students.

Many supporters cheered the initial victory, but the Chinese movement faces an uphill battle against the Communist Party, [which has deleted posts and censored online discussion of sexual harassment to avoid social unrest](#). If the protests become too destabilizing, the party could suppress it through violent action—as it has in the past against citizen- and student-led demonstrations.

Although #MeToo has brought the swift downfall of high-profile offenders in the West, the movement will likely look much different in the rest of the world. Chinese advocates, to avoid a government crackdown on their speech, are calling for “mild and gentle” progress, but the party has already nixed seemingly harmless proposed changes, such as university seminars on improper conduct. Meanwhile, women in predominantly Muslim countries must grapple with accusations against men and religious leaders that could heighten anti-Islamic sentiment.

The #MeToo phenomenon has shown that sexual harassment crosses racial, cultural, and socio-economic barriers, but if it’s to be a truly global campaign, the voices of victims in fledgling movements must be amplified, and the international community must work to ensure that women have the freedom to speak against their abusers.

Conspiracy Theorists Arrested After Threatening Pastor at Texas Church Where Mass Shooting Occurred (March 6, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Two conspiracy theorists were arrested Monday after allegedly threatening a pastor at the Texas church where 26 people were killed in a 2017 mass shooting, which the couple claim was staged by the U.S. government.

First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs pastor Frank Pomeroy found Robert Ussery and Jodi Mann writing, “The truth shall set you free” on a church poster hung up for well-wishers to sign. Pomeroy intervened, prompting a tirade from Ussery, who was filming the interaction with a camera on his chest.

Ussery “continually yelled and screamed and hollered and told me he was going to hang me from a tree and pee on me while I’m hanging,” [Pomeroy told the San Antonio Express-News](#). “He kept trying to bait us to do something dumb.”

In the rant, Ussery denied the victims’ existence and demanded to see the birth certificate of Pomeroy’s 14-year-old daughter, who was killed in the attack. “He said, ‘Show me anything to say she was here,’” Pomeroy said.

A nearby church member called police, who arrested the pair and booked them into the county jail, the Express-News reported.

Ussery, 54, and Man, 56, believe that mass shootings, including the Nov. 5 massacre at the church, are hoaxes organized by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. On Ussery’s website [Side Thorn](#), he also claims the shootings at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, never happened.

Side Thorn’s accompanying [Twitter account](#), which has nearly 1,400 followers, links to homemade videos on the site. One video in the aftermath of Sutherland Springs shows “exclusive footage” of allegedly staged and rehearsed activities that Ussery says prove that crisis actors filmed the shooting at an earlier date.

Pesky conspiracy theories like the ones Ussery and Mann promote resurface often after mass tragedies. In the wake of the Feb. 14 school shooting in Parkland, the [top-trending video on YouTube](#) pushed the lie that 17-year-old survivor David Hogg was a crisis actor hired by left-wing activists. It accumulated 200,000 views before YouTube removed it.

In the age of viral media, [conspiracy theories can become especially dangerous](#). Each time a reader encounters a false story on Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter, that story becomes more and more familiar, increasing the chances someone will consider it to be true. The fact that [President Donald Trump tolerates, and even indulges in, many conspiracy theories](#) is a bad sign for the prospects of a serious gun policy debate.

Shaun White Calls Sexual Harassment Allegations “Gossip,” Then Apologizes for “Poor Choice of Words” (Feb. 14, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Snowboarder Shaun White apologized on Wednesday for calling sexual harassment allegations made against him “gossip” at a news conference following his first-place finish in the men’s halfpipe at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

The allegations against White resurfaced this week when Slate and other outlets reported on the [media's silence regarding a sexual harassment complaint](#) filed by Lena Zawaideh, the former drummer in his band Bad Things. White denied the allegations in the complaint but admitted to sending her explicit text messages. The parties reached an undisclosed settlement in May 2017.

When asked about the allegations at the [post-event news conference](#), White dismissed the question.

“You know, honestly, I’m here to talk about the Olympics, not gossip,” he said. “I am who I am, and I’m proud of who I am. My friends, you know, love me and vouch for me, and I think that stands on its own.”

When White was asked a follow-up question about his description of the incident as “gossip,” a U.S. Ski and Snowboard communications official insisted that the questioner move on. White added: “I feel like I addressed it.”

Speaking to Savannah Guthrie on NBC’s *Today* on Wednesday morning, the three-time Olympic gold medalist appeared to have a change of heart:

I’m truly sorry that I chose the word gossip. It was a poor choice of words to describe such a sensitive subject in the world today. I’m just truly sorry. I was so overwhelmed with just wanting to talk about how amazing today was and share my experience.

CNN sports analyst [Christine Brennan](#) called White’s news conference “abysmal” and noted that several women who had raised their hands were never called on for questions. (Press officials with U.S. Ski and Snowboard [said](#) the decision not to call on a single woman was not “intentional.”)

One of the United States’ most recognizable and accomplished Olympians, White said during his press conference that he didn’t think the harassment claims would tarnish his legacy. During his interview with Guthrie, he added:

It’s amazing how life works and twists and turns and lessons learned. Every experience in my life I feel like it’s taught me a lesson, and I definitely feel like I’m a much more changed person than I was when I was younger. I’m proud of who I am today.

An Energy Dispute Between Serbia and Kosovo Is Slowing Europe’s Clocks (March 7, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

The relationship between Serbia and its former province, Kosovo, has been complicated, to say the least, for quite some time. Now a dispute between the two countries has apparently slowed digital clocks around Europe—and it may have been going on for close to two months.

[Twenty-five countries](#) on the continent are connected in an electric grid that runs on a synchronized frequency. The frequency is responsible for keeping time on many devices, such as digital clocks, oven clocks, and central heating timers—though not smartphones, according to [BBC News](#). But since mid-January, the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity, or ENTSOE, [reports](#) that the system frequency has deviated, causing delays of up to six minutes on clocks on the grid.

The problem stems from a long-running feud over energy (among many other issues) between Serbia and Kosovo. In the late 1990s, the former province broke away from Serbia in a bloody war and then, in 2008, declared independence, which Serbia has never recognized. Since mid-January, Kosovo failed to produce enough energy to meet its needs. Serbia is legally obligated to make up the difference to stabilize the grid, but it didn't, causing the frequency deviation. With the decreased frequency, the clocks began to run slow—just as they would run fast with an increase in frequency. The clocks can be manually set to the correct time, and they will automatically reset when the grid stabilizes.

The deviation stopped Tuesday when Kosovo generated enough energy to meet its needs, but not before 113 gigawatt hours of energy had been lost, ENTSOE spokeswoman Susanne Nies [told BBC News](#). Nies said a surplus of energy will be pumped into the system in the next few weeks to normalize the grid and provide balance across the continent. However, ENTSOE warned that until Serbia and Kosovo solve their political disagreements, a deviation risk could remain.

Since the war ended 19 years ago, primarily Serb municipalities in the north of Kosovo have refused to pay for the energy they use. As a result, the rest of the population has had to pay extra. But in December, the Kosovo government announced consumers would no longer be required to pay for the north's energy use. Instead, the Kosovo government will cover the [costs](#).

American Women Used to Dominate in Figure Skating. What Happened? (Feb. 21, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Between 1992 and 2002, Americans Kristi Yamaguchi, Tara Lipinski, and Sarah Hughes all won individual gold medals for the United States in women's figure skating. On Wednesday, all three women competing for the U.S. in the 2018 Olympics—Bradie Tennell, Karen Chen, and Mirai Nagasu—fell to the ice. According to USA Today, [the three U.S. women combined for the lowest score](#) for an American Olympic contingent since the advent of the short program in 1976.

While the falls weren't necessarily expected, none of the Americans had any realistic hope of contending for a medal. How did U.S. women's figure skating fall so far so fast? Here are a few theories.

The United States hasn't adapted to the new scoring system. The International Skating Union's new system, adopted in 2004, [rewards difficult, higher-risk moves](#), especially in the latter part of the program when skaters are gliding across the ice on tired legs. (Skaters get a 10 percent bonus for jumps attempted in the second half of the program.) Russian skater Alina Zagitova has engineered her program for maximum points, backloading the routine with difficult maneuvers. [American "quad king" Nathan Chen](#) has also emphasized high-scoring maneuvers with great success. [But in a New York Times opinion piece](#), Lipinski writes that young female skaters in the U.S. have been "rewarded not for innovating and taking risks—attempting new combos, for instance, or trying more difficult jumps—but for skating cleanly." Both Nagasu—who landed a triple axel during the team event—and Tennell—who is capable of pulling off difficult combinations—are exceptions to that rule to some degree. But according to Lipinski, the U.S. won't have a deep pool of world-class women until America develops a more Russian mindset, one in which "skaters come up under a system designed to encourage them to up the technical ante at a very young age."

The top skaters in the U.S. don't push each other to improve. Whereas Tennell, Nagasu, and Chen train in separate locations, Russia's centralized sports system brings top athletes, such as [Zagitova and Evgenia Medvedeva](#), together to train under the same coach. Competing against the best brings out the best, Medvedeva says. "In our group there are really so, so, so many young skaters, some of them doing such difficult elements, such difficult jumps," [she told ESPN](#). "It just forces you to be stronger. When you see the younger skater who is doing [something] more difficult, you feel so strange inside because you are older, and you want to be stronger than them."

Figure skating doesn't draw the best American athletes. The Winter Olympics was once a breeding ground for female stars and crossover celebrities. Peggy Fleming and Dorothy Hamill were hugely famous in the 1960s and 1970s, and Michelle Kwan, Yamaguchi, Nancy Kerrigan, and Lipinski were all big stars in their own right. Yet the U.S. women haven't won an Olympic medal since 2006, when Sasha Cohen took silver. At this point, the most famous skater in the United States is Tonya Harding, and she hasn't competed in almost a quarter-century.

Is Tinder Plus' Age-Based Pricing a Discount for the Young or a Surcharge for People Over 30? (Jan. 31, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

In one fell swoop, a California state appeals court found Tinder guilty of age discrimination for charging people 30 and older more money for its premium service, Tinder Plus.

On Monday the court [ruled](#) in favor of Allan Candelore, who claimed that charging older users \$19.99 a month, compared with \$9.99 a month for younger people, violated two California laws: the Unruh Civil Rights Act and the Unfair Competition Law.

Although the dating app is free for everyone, users who pay for the premium subscription are entitled to a few bonus features. For example, Tinder Plus members can undo any swipe and use unlimited likes, instead of the 100 likes allowed every 12 hours. (Or for those slightly more desperate, subscribers can use five extra “superlikes” per day to let people know they’re *really* interested.)

Tinder co-founder Sean Rad defended the pricing model to [TechCrunch Disrupt](#), saying people under 30 years old typically have less money to spend. Therefore, the lower price is necessary to increase the number of young people who will pay for the premium service. Tinder spokeswoman Rosette Pambakian hit the same point in an interview with [NPR](#) when Tinder Plus was launched in 2015. “We’ve learned, not surprisingly, that younger users are just as excited about Tinder Plus but are more budget constrained and need a lower price to pull the trigger,” she said.

Tinder maintains that it’s not unusual for companies to offer products at different prices determined by age. Amazon and Apple Music offer discounted subscriptions for students who register with an educational email address, for instance. But while students may tend to be younger, lots of people return to school later in life. In addition to age-based pricing, Tinder also varies its Plus subscription fees based upon location. Users in developing countries pay as little as [\\$2.99 a month](#), while users in the U.S. clearly pay more.

But the appeals court wasn’t buying Tinder’s argument. It argued that *all* users can struggle financially; therefore, older people shouldn’t be charged more.

“No matter what Tinder’s market research may have shown about the younger users’ relative income and willingness to pay for the service, as a group, as compared to the older cohort, some individuals will not fit the mold,” Judge William F. Highberger wrote. “Some older consumers will be ‘more budget constrained’ and less willing to pay than some in the younger group. We conclude the discriminatory pricing model employs an arbitrary, class-based generalization about older users’ incomes as a basis for charging them more than younger users.”

While Tinder might be the place where young people congregate, Highberger showed why older people shouldn’t be left out of the mix. In the ruling, the nearly 70-year-old judge couldn’t help making the obvious joke: “Because nothing in the complaint suggests there is a public policy that justifies the alleged discriminatory pricing, the trial court erred in sustaining the demurrer. Accordingly, we swipe left and reverse.” Superlike.

Freeform’s #NotSorry Campaign for International Women’s Day Is Hardly Empowering (March 8, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Add “sorry” to the list of profanities that Freeform won’t allow characters to say—at least, if you’re a woman. For International Women’s Day, Freeform has launched its

#NotSorry campaign, which will bleep out the word “sorry” every time a woman says it on the air. About 50 “sorrys” will be censored throughout the day Thursday, with an on-air #NotSorry meter tracking the number of omitted words. “Women should not be sorry for asking for equal rights or equal pay,” [the campaign announced](#). “Women should not be sorry for seeking justice, speaking out against harassment or asking for gender parity.”

Disney’s young adult network gave viewers a taste of the action with a promotional montage of female characters from *Grown-ish*, *Shadowhunters*, *The Fosters*, and *The Bold Type*, who were all censored for saying the dirty word. While Freeform’s campaign may have its heart in the right place, hoping to encourage women to be bold in the face of cultural norms that [condition them to be more apologetic](#), it feels like clumsily executed lip service. Omitting the word from its characters—likely in many scenes in which the apology is actually warranted—isn’t going to close the gender wage gap, provide women with more promotional opportunities, and ensure a workplace environment that is free from sexual harassment.

Instead of presumptuously censoring women’s speech at a time when they [already tend to speak on-screen less than men](#), Freeform’s programs could question why women feel the need to say sorry in the first place. The network has already produced some interesting women-driven shows like *The Fosters*, *Grown-ish*, and *The Bold Type*. Perhaps its time would be better spent addressing the deeper meanings behind those empty apologies in the scripts themselves.

What’s With the Facebook Notifications About New Facial Recognition Features? (March 2, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

As Facebook confronts a lawsuit over how it collects and uses biometric data, the social network is notifying more users about new facial recognition features that may infringe upon their privacy.

Many people who logged onto Facebook this week were greeted with a News Feed alert detailing the new tools available through facial recognition software. Some people are receiving a notification saying that the “setting is on,” while for others, it says, “the setting is off.” It’s possible that the difference has to do with existing settings the user had selected. A Facebook spokesperson explained the reason for the different notifications. “This new setting respects people’s existing choices, so if you’ve already turned off tag suggestions, then your new face recognition setting will be off by default. If your tag suggestions setting was set to ‘friends,’ then your face recognition setting will be set to on.”

Facebook has used the technology for years to suggest the names of friends when you’re tagging photos. But in December, the company announced it would expand the software to include [new features](#) to help users find photos they haven’t been tagged in, tell people

with visual impairments who's in their photos, and help protect against strangers who use other people's pictures (think *Catfish*).

While the company claims the tools will improve the Facebook experience and help users manage their identity, others view the new rollout as something a little more sinister. "Facebook can say this is about photo tagging. It's not about photo tagging," said Alvaro Bedoya, executive director of the Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown University.

The notifications come just days after a federal judge in California denied Facebook's request to dismiss a [class-action lawsuit](#) that claims the platform collected and stored users' biometric information without consent. Facebook must now proceed with the case, which was filed in federal court by Illinois residents who said Facebook violated the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act.

The Illinois law, passed in 2008, gives residents grounds to accuse Facebook of real harm. But Facebook has argued that facial recognition technology does not cause serious injury like physical harm or theft of property. And the social network has repeatedly touted [the benefits](#) of the software, saying it can be used to securely unlock phones and help find kidnapped children.

Still, Bedoya and other privacy watchdogs worry that as personal information becomes more valuable, powerful tech companies like Facebook could sell users' personal information to retailers, allowing them to identify customers the minute they step foot in the store. The fact that the technology is becoming even more powerful should be cause for concern. It used to be that "Facebook would scan photos posted by close friends to see if they included you," Bedoya said. "Now they're scanning every single photo posted to Facebook to find you. What that shows is that the system has become even more sophisticated."

Such concerns have led states like Texas and Washington (and, of course, Illinois) to pass privacy laws around biometrics. The European Union and Canada have also adopted strict privacy restrictions that have prevented Facebook from rolling out facial recognition technology to users in those countries. In 2012, EU regulators forced Facebook to [discontinue its facial recognition tools](#) on the continent after pressure from the Irish Data Protection Commission. However, [the Irish Times reports](#) that the social network will reintroduce the technology on an opt-in basis in the coming months.

And there's still a lot we don't know about how this all will work. "According to Facebook, face templates 'are deleted' when face recognition is turned off, but it's unclear if Facebook *still* has your face print and still knows what untagged photos you appear in if you never agree to use these new features" in the first place, Sidney Fussell writes in [Gizmodo](#).

"Facebook can do whatever it wants with this data. It's sensitive information about our bodies that can be used to find us in real time, in real life," Bedoya said. "[Facebook is](#)

[losing users](#) at a high pace. A Facebook that is failing is far more of a threat to privacy than a Facebook that is thriving.”

Reddit (Finally) Bans Deepfake Communities, but Face-Swapping Porn Isn’t Going Anywhere (Feb. 8, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Photoshopping celebrities’ faces onto nude photos has been around for years. Now, new technology has spawned a more sinister upgrade to that practice—and it has online communities scrambling to keep nonconsensual adult content off their platforms. This week, Reddit, Twitter, and Pornhub became the latest social platforms to ban deepfakes—fake porn videos in which artificial intelligence superimposes celebrities’ (and other people’s) faces onto the bodies of adult film actors. With free and easy-to-use facial recognition technology, users can create videos that are nearly indecipherable from reality.

Deepfakes became popular late last year on a Reddit subform, r/deepfakes, which had almost 90,000 subscribers by the time the site shut it down Wednesday, and was named after the Redditor who first began to post the content. The videos targeted Gal Gadot, Scarlett Johansson, Daisy Ridley, and others. They were (obviously) posted without the women’s consent.

In addition to banning the subform, Reddit updated its community rules to make its policy on [involuntary pornography](#) more clear. The rule, which was previously combined with regulations regarding sexual content involving minors, is now its own distinct policy.

“Reddit strives to be a welcoming, open platform for all by trusting our users to maintain an environment that cultivates genuine conversation,” [Reddit told Motherboard](#) on Wednesday.

Reddit’s decision came on the heels of other platforms banning deepfakes. Twitter denounced the practice Tuesday, saying it violates the platform’s intimate media policy. Users found in violation of the rule, which states that intimate photos and videos cannot be produced or distributed without consent, will have their accounts suspended.

That same day, Pornhub made its stance clear. The pornography site, which gets more than 75 million visitors a day, will delete deepfakes that its users flag.

“We do not tolerate any nonconsensual content on the site, and we remove all said content as soon as we are made aware of it,” [a spokesperson told Motherboard](#). “Nonconsensual content directly violates our (terms of service) and consists of content such as revenge porn, deepfakes, or anything published without a person’s consent or permission.”

But it's unlikely that Pornhub will be able to fully enforce its policy. The site is deleting only videos that users flag, meaning unflagged content abounds. Motherboard reported that dozens of videos clearly labeled as deepfakes remained on the site.

And, of course, nothing posted online truly disappears. The tools to make deepfake videos are still easily accessible, and plenty of people know how to use them. Deepfake video makers use browser extensions like Instagram Scraper and DownAlbum to mine photos from social media that can be uploaded onto a desktop application like Porn World Doppelganger that finds suitable lookalikes. Videos on the Reddit subform showed followers how to use such technology, and when it was shut down, deepfake enthusiasts simply [migrated to other chatrooms](#) where they could continue swapping tips and tricks.

While celebrities were some of the earliest victims, people are now creating deepfake videos of friends, co-workers, classmates, crushes, and exes. The technology is set to become the latest tool for creating revenge porn—the posting of sexually explicit material to embarrass a former partner. But revenge porn and other privacy laws don't address face-swapping content, so there is little legal recourse for people who are victims of deepfakes. Mary Anne Franks, who helped write much of the country's laws regarding nonconsensual porn, told [Wired](#) that victims can't sue someone for a privacy violation when it's not technically their body or their life that's being exposed.

Celebrities can sue for the misappropriation of their image when deepfakes are used for commercial purposes, but the best chance for someone who isn't a public figure is to use anti-defamation law to prove emotional distress, Franks said.

Some Schools Will Punish Students Who Walk Out of Class to Protest Gun Violence (March 13, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Students across the country will walk out of their schools Wednesday as a tribute to the 17 victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School massacre and to urge lawmakers to act in response to gun violence. The 17-minute protest organized by Empower, the youth branch of the Women's March, will begin at 10 a.m. in each time zone, and students from elementary school to college will march, make signs, and observe moments of silence instead of attend class.

While the National Student Walkout takes place amid a re-energized fight over gun control and school safety, it has also renewed a debate over students' right to protest in schools. The more than [2,500 estimated walkouts](#) are increasingly viewed as testing grounds for schools trying to strike a balance between enforcing school policies and respecting students' free speech rights.

In 1969, the Supreme Court's landmark *Tinker v. Des Moines District* decision established that students have the First Amendment right to protest. "Students do not shed

their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate,” the justices ruled. However, students do not have the right to cut class or disrupt class, which means they could be punished for participating in the walkout if it is not approved by school administrators.

Bentonville Schools in Arkansas is just one of several districts across the country that warned students who plan on participating in the walkout that they will be counted absent and assigned detention in accordance with [school policies](#).



Bentonville Schools

@Bville_Schools



Students who choose to participate in Wednesday's walkout at 10 a.m. will be counted absent and assigned a detention, in accordance with the student handbook.

9:02 PM - Mar 12, 2018



239



759 people are talking about this



The Needville Independent School District in Texas also announced in a now-deleted Facebook post that students who participate in any protest during school hours will be slapped with a [three-day suspension](#). The policy received a backlash of criticism from the community and national media and prompted the American Civil Liberties Union to issue statements reminding school districts that they cannot punish students more harshly for participating in a protest or walkout than they normally would for any other absence.

There is a loophole, however, for students who want to protest without being penalized. The ACLU says parents are within their rights to sign students out of class for 17 minutes or for the entire day. It's a tactic that can be used not only to help students protest, but to prevent a potentially disruptive situation.

Several Ivy League colleges and other universities, from UCLA to the University of Connecticut, have reassured applicants that disciplinary actions as a result of participation in a walkout or demonstration [will not affect their admission chances](#). [Many high schools have echoed that sentiment](#), saying they will not punish students who protest as long as they are not disruptive.

Other schools have even encouraged it. The [Associated Press reports](#) that in Mooresville, Indiana, administrators will allow students to use the school's public address system to read statements about mental illness and the importance of kindness before inviting all students to gather in a hallway for 17 minutes of silence.

At Arlington Public Schools in Virginia, spokesman Frank Bellavia said the district is supporting all student-led protests organized across its more than 30 schools.

“We want to encourage them to be involved, to be an active participant in their community, and to be part of these events across the nation,” he said. “They can see what the process is and be a better member of society when they leave the school system.”

The American Association of School Administrators has [offered guidelines](#) for schools on how to respond to the walkouts but has left the decision up to individual districts. Instead, the association has endorsed the April 20 National Day of Action to Stop Gun Violence in Our Schools, spearheaded by the Network for Public Education in response to the Parkland shooting. Organizers are calling for demonstrations, including sits-ins, walkouts, and marches, to show support for school safety.

“We’re not opposed to the walkouts, but we strongly support the National Day of Action,” AASA spokeswoman Noelle Ellerson Ng said. “Superintendents have a legal responsibility to make sure students are safe and to enforce absence and attendance policies. We also support them as they support students in their civic activities and engagement as it relates to gun safety in schools. The two don’t have to be in conflict.”

Facebook Just Made Using a Bunch of Apps a Little More Annoying. Good. (April 5, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

It’s bad enough that Facebook improperly shared the data of 87 million users with the political consulting firm [Cambridge Analytica](#). Now it’s making the experience on apps linked to the social network more irritating, too. Maybe that’s actually a good thing.

On Wednesday, as part of its response to the scandal, Facebook announced streamlined, easier-to-use security controls and simplified language in its [security and privacy policies](#). The company also indicated that beginning April 9, users will be able to see whether Cambridge Analytica harvested their data [via a link](#) that will appear at the top of their news feeds. The updates appeared to be a step in the right direction while only mildly intruding on users visiting the site.

Pinterest made a similar move this week when it sent notifications about a new [privacy policy](#) that will take effect May 1 and will require users’ approval. The app, which integrated more closely with Facebook late last year with a new Messenger extension that makes it easier to share pins online, followed Facebook’s lead in clarifying the way it collects and uses people’s data.

But Wednesday afternoon, Facebook also rolled out changes to the way third-party apps can collect information from the site. “Starting today, Facebook will need to approve all apps that request access to information, such as check-ins, likes, photos, posts, videos, events, and groups,” the company said in a [blog post](#). “We’ll show people a link at the

top of their News Feed so they can see what apps they use and the information they have shared with those apps. People will also be able to remove apps that they no longer want.” The idea was to protect people’s data by restricting the information available to outside apps, but it had unintended consequences that affected how users connected with other accounts linked to Facebook.

The update caused a particular uproar on Tinder, whose users complained on Twitter that they had been kicked off the app and couldn’t log back on. Those who tried to connect using their Facebook account were asked to provide additional permissions and prompted to log into Facebook, resulting in an endless loop. Tinder responded in a [tweet](#), saying, “A technical issue is preventing users from logging into Tinder. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working to have everyone swiping again soon.”



Madison Malone Kircher ✓

@4evrmalone



My Tinder Tweetdeck column is full of people freaking because Facebook's privacy changes appear to have somehow goofed up Tinder and now how will people ever have sex again!!!

3:21 PM - Apr 4, 2018

♥ 123 💬 75 people are talking about this



Max Davids

@maxxdavids



I have a date tonight and I don’t have her number. This is a serious problem for me in case our plans change — I’ll have no way of knowing

4:15 PM - Apr 4, 2018

♥ 7 👤 See Max Davids's other Tweets



The Tinder glitch reveals the problem with integrating Facebook into other social media apps. Although a movement to delete Facebook has gained moment among [businesses](#), [celebrities](#), and [private users](#), doing so could make it more difficult to access and interact on other apps. For example, it’s possible to create a new Tinder account using a phone number, but users who had previously logged on via Facebook would lose all access to matches and conversations they accumulated. As [Wired noted](#), many people on Tinder choose to sign in with their pre-existing Facebook profile because it’s simply easier to transfer photos to the dating app and find out whether they have mutual friends with a potential match. That convenience has caused many people to think twice before hitting the final delete button on Facebook.

Social media users weren't the only ones who encountered problems as a result of Facebook's new privacy changes. Some app developers woke Thursday morning to inboxes full of error messages as Facebook-owned Instagram curtailed the number of times third parties could collect updated information on users. Instagram warned back in July that it would limit that number, but it accelerated the process in the wake of the Cambridge Analytica scandal. [Business Insider reported](#) that developers found out about the changes only when the app started sending error messages Wednesday night. The move was intended to protect people by prohibiting third parties like Cambridge Analytica from exploiting their data, but it also means that apps, such as Framatic and Sprout Social, that rely on Instagram data to provide add-on services may no longer work.

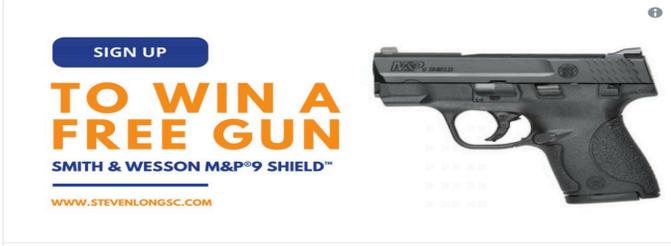
The bombardment of irritating notifications and the escalation of development bugs as a result of Facebook's new privacy settings are annoying and bothersome, to be sure, but they're not necessarily a bad thing. It's good that apps are (intentionally or unintentionally through malfunctions) reminding users of privacy policies and asking again for their permission. Just by signing up, users agree to share personal information, which multiplies if several apps are linked. It's easy to click "accept" without looking at the dense text, but when a change interferes with your ability to find a date, it may be a good reminder of exactly what information you're handing over to third parties.

South Carolina Lawmaker Creates Gun Giveaway to Arm Teachers (Feb. 27, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

A South Carolina state legislator is raising money for a gun giveaway that would provide handguns to two teachers and one "freedom-loving patriot" who participate in the random drawing.

Rep. Steven Long [announced on his website Monday](#) that he plans to give away 9-millimeter handguns to a K-12 teacher or administrator and to an employee at a college or university. The educators, who must pass a background check, will also be given a gift certificate to attend a class where they can earn a concealed-weapons permit.



Steven W Long
@StevenLongSC

I'm giving away 3 handguns!! 1 to a K-12 teacher/staff, 1 to a higher ed faculty/staff, and 1 to a freedom loving patriot!
Read all about it here: stevenlongsc.com/rep-steven-lon...

10:38 AM - Feb 26, 2018

32 137 people are talking about this

The Republican from the northwestern city of Boiling Springs set up a donation page to pay for the three Smith and Wesson M&P Shield weapons, which cost about \$500 a piece. Any remaining funds will be donated to South Carolina Carry, an organization that promotes Second Amendment policies and firearms education.

“Allowing teachers or school staff members to carry is the most efficient and most effective way to (ensure the safety of children in schools),” Long said on his website. “Not every teacher will want to carry or needs to carry, but for those who are willing and able, we need to allow them this protection. It is undeniable that we must take action on this issue.”

The giveaway comes on the heels of the Feb. 14 [shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School](#) in Parkland, Florida. In the wake of that shooting, which left 17 people dead, [President Trump](#) and other Republicans voiced support for arming teachers.

Long, who was endorsed by the NRA during his 2016 campaign, is organizing the gun giveaway to support state legislation that would allow teachers to carry concealed weapons in schools. It’s a strategy he thinks will deter mass shooters, whom he called “mentally defective cowards,” from targeting gun-free zones, according to his website. “By allowing trained adults to defend the students, we will send the message to those deranged psychotic degenerates that children are our top priority and we will protect them.”

Since January 2017, South Carolina legislators have introduced five bills in the state House of Representatives that would allow teachers to carry guns. The bills aim to end concealed-carry restrictions at K–12 schools and on college campuses, including during sporting events. Among other goals, one piece of legislation also seeks to designate some school employees as “school protection officers” who can provide protection in active-shooter situations.

In the GOP-controlled state, many Republicans favor such measures instead of tighter gun regulations. Republicans have a [79–44 advantage in the House](#) in addition to a majority in the state Senate. The legislators also have the support of [Gov. Henry McMaster](#), who said Thursday he would support a bill arming teachers.

Despite the GOP majority, the fractious issue has divided Republican officials, whose myriad views hinder any consensus on gun legislation. The legislature has not passed any of the [50 gun bills](#)—supporting both tighter and looser gun regulations—that have been introduced since 2017. And in the previous session, only three of 68 gun-related bills became law.

Although the majority of states have laws prohibiting guns at K–12 schools, legislation allowing teachers to carry firearms exists in five states. The [National Conference of State Legislators reports](#) that since the 2012 mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, South Dakota, and Texas have passed laws that allow school officials to carry concealed weapons on campus. Five additional states—Alabama,

Michigan, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Utah—have laws allowing gun owners with concealed-carry permits to have firearms at K–12 schools.

Anyone who has school permission can also carry guns at K–12 schools in 19 other states: Alaska, Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Kansas, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Montana, New Jersey, New York, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, and West Virginia.

[Forty-four percent](#) of Americans said they support arming more teachers, compared with 50 percent who oppose the idea. Many educators rejected the idea, with several teachers’ groups speaking publicly against it. “We don’t want to be, and would never have the expertise needed to be, sharp shooters,” American Federation of Teachers president Randi Weingarten said in a [statement](#). “No amount of training can prepare an armed teacher to go up against an AR-15.”

The National Education Association, which represents 3 million educators, also issued a [statement](#) opposing the idea. “Bringing more guns into our schools does nothing to protect our students and educators from gun violence,” President Lily Eskelsen García said. “Our students need more books, art and music programs, nurses, and school counselors.”

As the debate around arming teachers has resurfaced in the national spotlight, teachers across the United States protested on social media with the hashtag #ArmMeWith in posts describing the resources they need more urgently than guns to serve their students.



 join the movement

©thesuperheroteacher @missberfelz, 2018

 **Allie Weber**
@MissMaryAllie



#ArmMeWith SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOLKS

10:41 PM - Feb 20, 2018

♡ 566 💬 239 people are talking about this

Olympics Angle: Blades of Glory Edition (Feb. 12, 2018)

Slate's daily newsletter on the weekend that was at the Pyeongchang Olympics.

By Jaime Dunaway

*Miss any of the action at the Pyeongchang Games over the weekend? We have you covered with this special Olympics version of *The Angle*. We'll also be sending the regular newsletter at the regular time.*

The skaters, they're just like us: Justin Peters says figure skater [Adam Rippon is winning the Winter Olympics](#) with his endearing (and highly relatable) post-event interviews about In-N-Out Burger, Xanax, and Reese Witherspoon.

Making history: Mirai Nagasu became the first American woman to land a triple axel at the Olympics. [Watch here](#) if you missed the historic jump.

Better than gold? [Peters explains](#) why winners are hoisting stuffed tigers instead of Olympic medals at post-event victory ceremonies.

Propaganda ploy: Can Kim Jong-un improve the reputation of his regime and tout the superiority of collectivism with the help of cheerleaders? [Here's why](#) Peters thinks it might be working.

Dancing by yourself at the mall: [Watch Evgenia Medvedeva for some pointers.](#)

I think we're alone now,

Jaime

Hacking Techniques That Force ATMs to Spit Out Cash Have Made It to the U.S. (Jan. 30, 2018)

By Jaime Dunaway

Walking by an ATM spitting out cash might sound like a dream. But the Secret Service isn't so amused. It's issued a warning to financial institutions about cyber attacks that cause ATMs to issue cash like lottery prize money.

In a [release](#) shared with CNN Tech, the Secret Service said at least six attacks, known as "jackpotting" schemes, have been reported across the U.S. in the past week. The hackers, who target stand-alone ATMs at pharmacies and large retailers, as well as drive-through cash machines, have stolen more than \$1 million so far.

Independent digital security reporter Brian Krebs first reported the warning on his website, [Krebs on Security](#), and said officials have notified ATM makers Diebold Nixdorf and NCR Corp. of the threat.

“While at present these appear focused on non-NCR ATMs, logical attacks are an industry-wide issue,” said an NCR alert cited by Krebs. (The industry appears to prefer the more staid “logical attacks” to the cha-ching of “jackpotting.”) “This represents the first confirmed cases of losses due to logical attacks in the U.S. This should be treated as a call to action to take appropriate steps to protect their ATMs against these forms of attack and mitigate any consequences.”

Hackers have previously used other tricks to steal cash, like [card skimming](#), but jackpotting represents a more lucrative maneuver—and a bigger problem for the banking industry.

Here’s how it works. First, the hackers, often operating in teams, must gain physical access to an ATM. (In some attacks, according to Krebs, jackpotters have used phishing techniques to steal access codes and then dressed up like ATM technicians to break into the locked door that guards the cash machine’s motherboard.) Once they have access, they use physical hacking tools to sync a laptop with the ATM network and remove it from service. From there, they install malware through a USB port that forces the machine to dispense cash.

To prevent further attacks, a Diebold Nixdorf [advisory](#) suggests that clients implement physical authentication access controls for technicians and improve investigations into unusual transactions.

Jackpotters have operated for years in other parts of the world, particularly in Europe and Asia.

For instance, [Reuters reported](#) in 2016, “Cyber criminals have remotely attacked cash machines in more than a dozen countries across Europe this year, using malicious software that forces machines to spit out cash, according to Russian cyber security firm Group IB.”

The international nature of cybercrime makes it [difficult to prosecute](#). But before you try withdrawing dollars without a PIN at your local ATM, just remember three jackpotters who [stole \\$2.6 million in Taiwan](#) are serving time behind bars.

***Serial* Subject Adnan Syed Will Get A New Trial (March 29, 2018)**

By Jaime Dunaway

Adnan Syed, whose murder case was the subject of the popular and groundbreaking podcast *Serial*, will get a new trial, a Maryland appeals court ruled Thursday.

Syed was convicted in 2000 of killing his girlfriend Hae Min Lee and burying her body at a local Baltimore park. At 19-years-old, he was sentenced to life in prison, where he has remained since his arrest in 1999.

He unsuccessfully appealed the conviction in 2012 and tried again in 2016, when a lower judge [vacated the conviction](#) on the grounds that his attorney had not effectively represented him by failing to cross-examine a key witness, the state's cell phone tower expert. The judge granted him a new trial, which the Maryland Court of Special Appeals upheld Thursday. The ruling follows [new evidence presented in 2016 from an alibi witnesses, Asia McClain](#), who says she was with Syed at the time of the murder.

The 2014 podcast questioned Syed's guilt and outlined many doubts regarding his legal representation. According to Apple, it was [the fastest podcast in iTunes history to reach 5 million downloads](#), and it topped the charts in countries around the world.



rabia O'chaudry

@rabiasquared



WE WON WE WON WE WON WE WON!!!!!!!!!!!!!!#FreeAdnan

1:02 PM - Mar 29, 2018

14.9K 3,411 people are talking about this



Serial

@serial



Today, Adnan Syed's appeal in his case was affirmed by the Court of Special Appeals of Maryland. bit.ly/2pQy4Bt

1:36 PM - Mar 29, 2018

6,364 2,670 people are talking about this



Chapter 5: Analysis

Introduction

When Daniel Dale first started covering Donald Trump's presidential campaign for the Canadian newspaper, The Toronto Star, getting credentials wasn't a problem. That all changed as the campaign gained steam in the following months, and the billionaire businessman won the Republican nomination. From then on, Dale was relegated to waiting in line for hours with the masses if he wanted to report on the nominee's activities. And he wasn't alone in his experience. Trump's campaign denied access to almost all foreign media, and the practice didn't stop once he took office in January 2018. More than a year has passed since the 2016 election, and foreign correspondents are still grappling with how to cover a president who doesn't seem to value their role in providing information to a global audience about the leader of the most influential country in the world.

International journalism is as important as ever in this interconnected world, and foreign correspondents play an important role in educating international audiences and increasing cross-cultural understanding. But like the example in the preceding paragraph shows, foreign journalists are often ignored because their audience does not have a vote in U.S. elections. However, it would be in the United States' best interest to facilitate a vibrant worldwide media landscape by providing foreign correspondents with access and information. Not only do international audiences have a right to know how U.S. policy decisions will affect them, foreign reporting is reaching more domestic viewers and

shaping the perceptions of audiences in other countries, which can play a part in U.S. foreign policy outcomes.

This paper sought to identify the particular obstacles created by the Trump administration that are unique to foreign correspondents in their reporting. It also intended to examine how such impediments affect the quality of reporting and the quality of stories that enter the international news flow. It is the hope that through such knowledge, this paper will be able to provide recommendations and examples of best practices that will make reporting on the Trump administration less difficult for foreign correspondents.

Data from interviews with 10 present and former foreign correspondents was used to write this paper. The foreign correspondents, defined as journalists working for any media that produce news about the United States primarily for audience in another country, represented several world regions, including North America, Western Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. The journalists interviewed are:

- Adrian Morrow, a correspondent for The Globe and Mail, the most widely read newspaper in Canada. He has worked as a correspondent in Washington since 2017.
- Daniel Dale, a three-year Washington correspondent for The Toronto Star newspaper in Canada.
- Chidanand Rajghatta, a foreign reporter for the Times of India, an English-language publication based in Mumbai. Rajghatta has worked as a foreign correspondent since 1994 and has covered four presidents: Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama, and Donald Trump.

- Ching-Yi Chang, a correspondent for Shanghai Media Group. He spent four years at Hong Kong TV before moving to Washington in 2010.
- Weihua Chen, a journalist for the English-language publication China Daily. Chen has been in the United States since 2003 covering New York and Washington, D.C.
- Lidia Catalano, a journalist for the Italian newspaper La Stampa. She is a former Transatlantic Media Fellow and spent 2017 traveling the United States reporting on labor, education, and social issues.
- Martin Bialecki, the North American bureau chief for the German Press Agency. He has held the position since 2015.
- Victoria David, a former Washington reporter for France 2, a French national public broadcaster. She spent the first three months of 2017 in Washington working as a news blogger and social media journalist.
- Nadia Bilbassy-Charters, the Washington bureau chief for Al-Arabiya, a Saudi-owned television news station broadcast throughout the Arab world. Bilbassy-Charters began her career as a foreign correspondent in Africa in 1996 and has been in Washington for the past 15 years.
- Sabrina Siddiqui, a Washington-based political reporter for The Guardian. She previously worked at the Huffington Post.

Challenge No. 1

Lack of access. The most common complaint among foreign correspondents was that they lacked access to the president and other senior officials. The problem started on the campaign trail but became more acute once Trump received the Republican

nomination and the campaign became inundated with credential requests, they said.

“There are a million reporters here, and the power brokers don’t care about you because you don’t write for their audience,” Dale said. “You’re not physically in their world, and that’s a challenge.”

Lack of access was a problem international journalists also encountered with Hillary Clinton’s campaign, except her staffers always explained why credential requests were denied as a professional courtesy. Although it was a small gesture, reporters said they appreciated that her campaign took the time to explain its reasoning. Likewise, the other GOP candidates appeared more adept at working with foreign media, and correspondents never reported being denied access to their campaign rallies. However, journalists said it wasn’t necessarily because they were more welcoming to foreign media. Rather, they were desperate for media coverage of their campaigns.

The practice of barring foreign media from information sessions did not stop once Trump won the White House. Just two months after taking office, the White House banned The Guardian, the Daily Mail, the BBC, and several domestic publications from attending an off-camera “gaggle,” taking place in lieu of the daily press briefing (Siddiqui, 2017). The move to prohibit those media outlets was considered highly unusual, particularly considering that they would have otherwise been allowed to attend the daily briefing.

As noted above, lack of access is not unique to the Trump administration. Former President Barack Obama was guilty of snubbing foreign media, too. At a Chicago rally celebrating Obama’s 2008 election, 45 journalists from the European Broadcast Union applied for eight positions on an 80-person riser located on the stage where Obama would

be speaking (Berger, 2008). Only one of their applications was accepted. Obama had further problems with the media throughout his presidency, and unlike Trump, his administration sought to prosecute reporters it believed had been involved in leaks that violated national security standards (Wootson, 2017).

Many foreign correspondents acknowledged that both administrations are guilty of not being open and transparent with the media, but they disagreed on how much it has worsened since Trump took office. The Guardian's White House correspondent, Sabrina Siddiqui, believes that what differentiates Trump's administration is the president's hostile rhetoric toward the media, which makes it increasingly difficult for journalists to do their jobs. She said:

There was always a level of professionalism between both parties (under the Obama administration). Although I didn't cover George Bush's White House, my understanding from others is that they had a similarly cordial relationship with the press and kept things professional. With this White House, there's never an apology for disinviting or barring people from coming, nor is there an effort to correct course. That is a distinction.

Martin Bialecki, the North American bureau chief for the German Press Agency, also called the Deutsche Press Agency, is also among those who believe that access has decreased since Trump took office. He lamented the fact that the agency no longer has a hard pass that allows journalists to enter the White House as they please. Following that loss of direct access, Bialecki said his reporters have been forced to rely more heavily on other media sources, such as The New York Times. Even though daily and weekly passes to the White House are available, correspondents reportedly struggled to receive even

those. “Whenever I go through the process to apply for that, they just ignore me and don’t respond at all,” Dale said. “If they told me I was denied for some reason, that would be better in some way. Now I’m just like, ‘Did they see it? Did I do something wrong?’”

Even correspondents who are approved for a coveted hard pass said their questions are largely ignored at the daily press briefing. Several reporters complained that Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders prioritizes questions from a small group of reporters working for major news outlets or those that are particularly friendly to Trump in their coverage. It doesn’t help that the first few rows in the 40-seat press briefing room are usually reserved for wire services and high-profile organizations, such as CBS, CNN, and Fox. Foreign reporters are often relegated to standing at the back of the room in a crowd that the press secretary rarely calls upon for questions. In describing this problem, senior Al-Arabiya correspondent Nadia Bilbassy-Charters said:

The press briefing is not valuable at all. It’s a complete waste of time. I’ve had a hard pass for 15 years, so I can go in and out easier than most foreign reporters, but saying that, (Sanders) never calls on me. Sometimes I feel frustrated because I feel like I have good questions about foreign policy.

However, other correspondents argued that the Trump administration is no worse than Obama’s in terms of being accessible to foreign media. In some ways, it is actually more transparent, they said, because Trump does not hesitate to make his opinions known via Twitter. “He responds so much on impulse, which I don’t necessarily agree with, but at least he is saying something,” said Weihua Chen, a correspondent for China Daily. Trump’s disdain for politics as usual has also changed the way he interacts with the media, often bypassing traditional channels of communication. When Trump speaks at a

press conference, journalists said he is more likely to call on random reporters who have their hands raised. It's a strategy that not only fuels the chaos he thrives upon but also differentiates him from his predecessor. Whereas Obama preferred to consult with his press secretary, who would respond to questions in a controlled environment, reporters noted that Trump is more likely to answer questions hurled at him in passing as he walks to Air Force One, for example. "Trump thinks he is the best spokesperson for himself," said Ching-Yi Chang, a correspondent for Shanghai Media Group. "He doesn't think the press secretary can represent him."

The results have been a welcome change and a source of frustration for foreign correspondents who hold this view. On the one hand, candid answers that are not synchronized among various agencies, such as the White House, State Department, and Pentagon, can be more interesting for readers. But on the other, they could yield conflicting information that leaves the audience confused and unsure of whom to trust.

The technological solution. One way that foreign correspondents have overcome lack of access to the Trump administration is through technology. The White House press briefing is streamed online daily, meaning correspondents do not have to be physically present to stay up to date on the White House's official policy stance.

It is an imperfect solution, to be sure, reporters admitted. Primarily, it restricts foreign journalists' already limited opportunities to build relationships with officials and personally interact with other White House correspondents, who could provide information that is not available online. Siddiqui emphasized the importance of going to the press briefing by saying:

The reason is to show that you are a reporter covering this White House and that you're not going away. There's an incentive for them to have a rapport with you. If they see that you're one of the reporters who covers the White House daily, they're more likely to include you when they do off-the-record events, send you background, or respond to you when news breaks. Out of sight, out of mind.

But as previously discussed, being admitted to the press briefing is not guaranteed, and correspondents must take advantage of alternative opportunities to access White House information. For some, watching the press briefing online is actually more advantageous because it allows them to make better use of their time. Time spent traveling to and from the briefing can instead be spent working on stories. "You can pull the one relevant quote and not waste three hours going to the White House for one quote from Sarah Sanders," said Adrian Morrow, a reporter for the Canadian publication The Globe and Mail. Chen reiterated Morrow's point, adding that many of the minute domestic policy details discussed at the briefing are not of particular interest to a global audience. "We can't afford the time to sit at the White House briefing every day," he said. "Ninety-nine percent of the content is irrelevant to us."

Challenge No. 2

Cabinet chaos. Trump's State Department officials, whom foreign correspondents characterized as inexperienced individuals who are often ignorant of the offices they are appointed to lead, have been another source of frustration for international journalists reporting on a broad range of U.S. topics. "They have a fundamentally different way of operating, and they don't care if it's breaking with the norms of a free press," Siddiqui said. "They have a resentment toward the media that

makes it difficult to forge relationships with them as sources.” When journalists spoke of this problem, many pointed out that State Department administrators are not versed well enough in foreign policy or foreign affairs to provide intelligent statements for stories. It has not only deprived foreign reporters of knowledgeable sources to include in their reporting, it has also limited the information they can receive on background. Officials either ignore requests for comment out of ignorance, or they choose not to respond because they are not up to date on the mercurial president’s latest policy stance, reporters said. Bilbassy-Charters described her frustration by saying:

You’re left to guess what the policy is because people in the White House don’t know it. The president makes up his mind at the last minute, and sometimes people are not informed. It’s the whole structure of how the White House functions. The media is a mirror of the chaos and instability that happens there.

The problem has been particularly acute at the State Department, which oversees the Foreign Press Center that provides media credentials and other resources to foreign journalists. To make matters more complicated, Trump gutted the department by pushing out several top officials, such as the deputy secretary of state and the undersecretary for international security affairs, just weeks after taking office (Scheller and Schulber, 2017). The White House typically asks senior administrators to stay on for a few months until their successors are named, but 10 weeks after cleaning house, the positions remained unfilled. Furthermore, half the positions on the department’s leadership team continued to be vacant or filled by temporary officials as of April 4, 2018 (Scheller and Schulber, 2017). With so many empty positions, not only in leadership spots, multiple foreign correspondents said they did not know whom to call with a question. As a result,

reporters said they were forced to spend precious time on the phone, transferring sources until they found the right person. Temporary officials helped in the short term by providing answers to immediate questions, journalists said, but they often lacked depth of knowledge that enriched stories for international readers with contextual information. “In the old days, you knew the hierarchy,” Times of India reporter Chidanand Rajghatta said. “You simply don’t know who to call or who to talk to today. I saw that in the first year, and I don’t think it’s gotten better in the past few months.”

The reduction in State Department funding has limited the resources that the Foreign Press Center is able to provide foreign correspondents, interviewees said. In addition to credentialing international journalists, the agency organizes briefings specifically for foreign correspondents with government officials and other leaders in key U.S. industries. The briefings provide reporters with an opportunity to ask questions in a smaller group without competing with U.S. heavyweights, like The New York Times and The Washington Post. In the past, the center has also organized local reporting tours to places like the National Institutes of Health and the Quantico Marine base. The trips allowed reporters to collect details from the scene and directly communicate with authoritative sources that they may have otherwise struggled to contact. Reporters said the center was quite active in the Obama years but has slowed its activities since the Trump administration came to power. Chen said:

That’s not a good thing for us because we’re not privileged like the AP in having key access to White House sources and key department officials. We need channels to get closer to government officials, more briefings, and more press visits that used to be organized by the Foreign Press Center.

The sourcing solution. Journalists admitted that it is a challenge to speak directly with government officials, but they have found success in cultivating sources outside the White House. Capitol Hill has been a particularly good source of information for foreign reporters, in part, because there is a long-standing tradition in dealing with the press, they said. Congress remains one of the few places in Washington where journalists can chase down sources in the hallways of the Capitol largely unrestricted. That freedom gives correspondents access to ample people with policy knowledge to interview for a story.

Leaders in industry associations, business groups, lobbying firms, and think tanks have also been willing to speak with foreign media. Correspondents admitted that as largely unknown foreign journalists, responses to cold calls and emails are often left unreturned. But thanks to technology and social media platforms like Twitter, it is easier for reporters to connect with sources from all industries. “In terms of acquiring knowledge about Washington, Twitter is this amazing collection of experts sharing their expertise for free,” Dale said. “I think I’ve become much more versed on what’s happening on Capitol Hill because people are tweeting about it.” As relationships are built over time, it becomes easier to get background information from sources outside the White House, journalists said. “It’s true that the White House is hard to crack, but there are so many people to talk to in Washington that it’s not always necessary to go through them,” Morrow said.

Problem No. 3

Drinking from a fire hose. One reason it has become so difficult to cover the president is because, unlike Obama, Trump does not adhere to the conventional news cycle. Instead of using traditional channels of communication, technology has made it

easier for Trump to share, at any time of the day or night, policy announcements and controversial statements on Twitter. The ease with which he can tweet has effectively sped up an already rapid news cycle. The problem is not unique to foreign reporters. In fact, many domestic White House correspondents, such as Bloomberg's Margaret Talev, have complained that there are simply too many stories to cover (Hickman, Kim, and Pecorin, 2018). Speaking at the 2018 Hurley-Sloan Symposium, Talev said:

The ability to write a consistent policy story that sticks and the ability to find the airspace for policy stories when there are so many colorful personality stories popping up has created a real challenge for reporters like us who don't necessarily trade in palace intrigue or the pure politics of the White House coverage as an art form.

To keep pace, news outlets have increased the number of reporters covering the White House. "There are far more people around the South Lawn, far more microphones and cameras, because you never know when the president's going to walk up to you for 30 minutes," CBS correspondent Major Garrett said at the symposium (Hickman, Kim, and Pecorin, 2018). But what's different for foreign correspondents is that shrinking news budgets have caused many organizations to shut or reduce the size of their foreign bureaus, often leaving one correspondent to do the work typically done by a team. In the age of Trump, covering the president and his unruly White House as a one-man-band has become an increasingly difficult task. "There are dozens of stories to write every day, so the challenge is, what do I write about?" Dale asked. "It's trying to strike a balance of covering the hot story but not doing what everyone else is doing and trying to find a way to be valuable."

Dale's comment gets to the heart of a problem that many foreign correspondents face. Are their stories important and meaningful to an international audience? Filtering through all the possible stories is an incredibly difficult task, and news that is of particular interest to international readers can easily get lost in the shuffle. Foreign correspondents said the trick is to know what stories the audience wants. Often, those stories are centric to their respective countries. "The bottom line is, you look for stories with an Indian angle," Rajghatta said. "It should be something that informs and educates our readers and looks at it from our perspective." Morrow added that stories about broad U.S. themes, such as gun control and health care, are also of interest.

Perhaps to the chagrin of correspondents, the "Trump Show" continues to be a major point of interest for international news consumers. "Anything about Trump doing something fascinating or outrageous gets really good readership judging by online metrics," Dale said. France 2 correspondent Victoria David echoed Dale by saying, "I think that everything incredible or crazy Trump was doing was of interest to the French audience, which is not used to seeing politics as a show."

Much of the madness plays out on Trump's Twitter account, which made so much news during the campaign and in his first year that many reporters said they spend a significant portion of their day monitoring the platform for breaking news. "I go to bed, and I read Trump's tweets. The first thing I read when I wake up in the morning are Trump's tweets," Chang said. "He tweets 24 hours. We have more to report." The attention journalists pay to Trump's Twitter account is markedly different from how they treated that of his predecessor. Describing the different communication styles between the two administrations, Dale said:

In terms of what we've seen, (Obama's) was boring. It was very structured. There was less news. You could almost tune out the Obama administration and focus on whatever story you were writing. You didn't have to be on Twitter all the time because nothing was happening. Now, it's constant.

How to cover Trump's Twitter account has been debated hotly in both U.S. and international newsrooms, and correspondents disagreed on how best to approach it. While some thought it was necessary to cover most, or all, of his tweets, others took a more measured approach. "We are very reluctant of that," Bialecki said, referring to newsrooms that cover all of Trump's tweets. "We say, 'No, we do not' because we have to make a difference. Is this important? Is this of any news value?"

Several journalists complained that although Trump's Twitter habits rarely left them without a story to cover, they were, more often than not, distracting. On the one hand, they are distracting in the sense that they take the focus away from real important issues. Bilbassy-Charters said:

During the Obama and Bush administrations, the issues were very substantial — the invasion of Iraq, the threat from Iran, the war in Syria. Nowadays, we get distracted by love affairs. Many stories are about what the president said and what the president tweeted, so it's changed the nature of reporting.

On the other hand, constantly monitoring the platform distracts correspondents from their work and makes it difficult to concentrate on other stories. If the president tweets or news breaks on Twitter, reporters have to stop what they're doing and divert to a new assignment. The problem is not unique to foreign correspondents, but it is, perhaps, more difficult for them because there are seldom other reporters present to help if

multiple stories break at once. Discussing his own social media and work routines, Morrow said:

Some days it would be great if I could come in and just focus on one story and do a really great job on it, but the way the news cycle works on social media, especially in the age of Trump, it means you're constantly bombarded with stuff. It ends up being a big demand on your time. You spend half your time monitoring stuff instead of actually working on something.

The collaborative solution. With all the stories that can be written each day, correspondents stressed the need to prioritize issues that are most important to their audience and the need to make judgment calls about what developments to cover in a story. One advantage of being a foreign correspondent is that not every miniscule piece of U.S. news needs to be covered because it may be confusing or irrelevant to a foreign audience. Those types of stories can likely be obtained through a wire service to which most news organizations subscribe. Rather, correspondents are relied upon to provide big-picture stories that summarize U.S. news in a way that is easily digestible for readers who may not know the intricacies of the U.S. government. Explaining how she wrote for a French audience, David said:

When it comes to making U.S. news understandable to French people, I tried to keep it simple, to really know what the most important things were in what I wanted to say and to get rid of everything that was useless. Doing articles in the "Five questions to understand" format was, for example, a good way to overcome that obstacle.

Collaborative groups involving reporters from multiple countries have been successful in producing longer summary stories and investigative pieces about domestic and international news that have interested readers all around the world (Fitzgibbon and Hudson, 2016). Yet very few correspondents said they work together on investigations or team up to tackle the sheer amount of daily stories coming out of Washington. The competitive mindset that pervades most newsrooms is, perhaps, a deterrent to greater collaboration. “We’re all friendly, but they’re our competitors, so we do our own thing,” Dale said. Foreign correspondents do collaborate, in a sense, by sharing quotes and notes or recommending sources to talk to for a particular story, but for the most part, reporters said they work alone.

However, working together is a strategy correspondents may want to consider in the future, especially on stories, such as the North American Free Trade Agreement, that touch multiple countries. By pooling their time and resources, it may be easier for correspondents to produce investigative big-picture stories that their organizations and audience want. In theory, the investigative work a correspondent typically does alone would be shared, creating additional time to work on other stories. The information gained from an investigation would, ideally, be more deep and broad, as well. Such collaborative reporting could lead to exclusive stories that are difficult for foreign correspondents to earn and help their publications stand out from others at home. Although the advantages of collaborative reporting were seldom discussed, a few correspondents did see its benefits. “I believe that all journalists should share because it’s in our interest to share information and to hold people in power accountable,” Bilbassy-

Charter said. “Then everybody will stand up together. Especially now, the press in a democracy is vital.”

Conclusion

It’s not hard to understand the logic that U.S. officials use to ignore international media. Foreign correspondents don’t write for an American audience, so why should they devote their limited time and resources to accommodate them? The behavior is, to some extent, mirrored in governments around the world. The Chinese government is likely to be more responsive to Chinese media than to American media, for example. Yet the difference lies in the fact that the United States has more influence than any other country in the world, correspondents said. And just like Americans, citizens of the globe have a right to know how U.S. policy decisions will affect their countries and impact their lives through thorough and accurate reporting. When asked about the importance of covering the Trump administration for an international audience, every reporter said it was an essential function of global media.

- “The world is so connected more and more. You need to see what’s happening on the other side of the world because it helps you understand what you are experiencing yourself,” said Lidia Catalano, a reporter for the Italian newspaper La Stampa.
- “It’s important for the world, not just my audience. The reason why so many foreign media pay very close attention to the Trump administration is because every single policy change will have a profound impact on other countries,” Chang said.

- “Given the military superpower of the United States, its economic influence, and the interdependence of the world, nearly everything the White House decides is of importance,” Bialecki added.

It may be tempting for officials in the Trump administration to assume that viewers of international media are not worth their time because they do not have a vote in U.S. elections, and therefore, hold no political power. However, that assumption is misguided. First, it is wrong to assume that all foreign media target an international audience. English-language publications like China Daily focus on American readers by providing news to U.S. diplomats, business executives, and students who may be working in China. Additionally, technology has made it increasingly easy for Americans to access foreign publications, like the BBC and The Guardian, and many choose to do so because they believe an outsider’s perspective provides more accurate and less biased reporting.

Second, the reporting that foreign correspondents provide to their home audience plays a significant role in shaping perceptions of the Trump administration and the United States around the world. “Trump’s approval rating in Canada is very poor, below 20 percent,” Dale said. “I’m not *the* opinion shaper, but I’m part of it.” David added, “I think most French people saw Trump as a joke. When the administration denies international media access, it is probably only going to feed the international press’ defiance toward Trump and the negative feelings that people have toward him in the world.” Those negative attitudes can have an effect on the foreign policy opportunities that will be available. It is a tactic that has already been employed in Mexico. In February, President Enrique Pena Nieto postponed a visit to the White House after Trump upset many Mexican citizens by insisting that they pay for a border wall (Martin, 2018).

Along those lines, if the Chinese are unhappy with Trump's trade tariffs, or if Canadians are fed up with his threats to shred NAFTA, they can pressure their own elected officials to play hardball with the president.

In conclusion, covering the Trump administration may be the hardest assignment yet for foreign correspondents in Washington, but changes to daily routines have helped reporters adapt to the challenges they face. Despite lack of access to White House press briefings, reporters used technology to fill the gap. While working with inexperienced staffers and reduced resources, journalists found other knowledgeable sources to supplement their reporting. Facing the sheer volume of stories coming out of the White House, correspondents pressed on and prioritized, all while confronting unprecedented hostility. Although journalists disagreed as to how much the Trump administration affected their work, all agreed it has certainly changed the nature of reporting and reiterated the need for strong international coverage. "I've seen a lot of great stories being covered after Trump was elected," Catalano said. "The situation is evolving a lot, and I'd love to be back there witnessing what is happening. You are lucky if you can be a journalist and cover this transformation."

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Appendix A

Adrian Morrow, The Globe and Mail

1. How long have you been a foreign correspondent? How long have you worked in Washington?

I started in January 2017. My first story was about Trump's inauguration. I've been at The Globe and Mail since 2010 and spent almost three years on the Toronto desk as a general assignment reporter covering crime and breaking news. I came across this job, and I applied for it before Trump was elected. Of course after Trump was elected, that made me want the job even more because it's an unusual moment. The most powerful country in the world is being run by one of the most unusual leaders in the world. I'm a politics junkie and covering the most powerful government in the world and its leader is appealing. I cover Washington, but I also cover the U.S. more generally. I like the way I do my job covering politics but at a ground level and going out to different states. I did a little of that during the primaries. I did a couple side trips to Iowa, Texas and Florida.

2. Have you been denied access to a campaign event or a press briefing?

The only time I remember that happening was at a Trump rally in Florida. At that point, it was clear that he was going to win the nomination, so he had hundreds of reporters at every rally, and they had to limit the number of press passes they were handing out. Toward the end, Trump and Clinton had a long convoluted process to get into their rallies. Before Florida, I don't remember ever having a problem, and the other candidates were super easy. You could just show up to Bernie Sanders, Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio that day and walk in as media. It was not a problem at all. Clinton had tons of security from the very beginning. I think because she was a former secretary of state. For her, you had to get vetted by the Secret Service. For Trump, it got more difficult over time. I don't think at the beginning it was that difficult. Once he got a Secret Service detail, you had to register for his rallies in advance, and the Secret Service would have to screen you. Even with that whole convoluted process for Clinton and Trump, that was the only rally I didn't get into.

3. What obstacles do you face in covering the Trump administration?

The biggest thing by far is you're drinking from a fire hose because so much happens in a typical day. I'm a one-person bureau, and we have a few guest columnists, but in terms of news, I'm covering it by myself. It's being able to decide and set priorities about what you want to cover every day because you have to stay on top of 60 different things at once.

There's an access thing. I don't cover the minutia of the White House every day because I have so much other stuff to do. I'm not really worried about getting access constantly to

people in the White House. I just go occasionally to press briefings or events at the White House. It's not a day-to-day thing. I don't experience that many barriers, but I'm not at the White House trying to get access to people.

It's very different depending on the branch of government. Congress is very accessible. You can just walk in and pull people, senators, aside in the hallways. That's quite easy. Getting a hold of people in the administration can be more difficult. I cover the NAFTA negotiations pretty closely, but for the first two or three months, it was impossible to get entry to the guy who was handling it. He'd do interviews with CNBC all the time, but if you'd phone his office asking for an interview or basic information, he wouldn't bother returning your calls. I don't know if that was the general disorganization of the Trump administration or if that was because I was foreign media. That's one natural barrier I can think of. Getting your calls returned when you're foreign media is not easy.

4. What stories do you prioritize for your audience? Are they more interested in Trump's crazy rhetoric, or are they more interested in his policies?

It's anything that has a Canadian angle. Half my job is covering NAFTA and Canada-U.S. relations. One of our big focuses is a business audience, so we cover Canadian business very extensively, and that's a huge part of our subscriber base, so there's a huge amount of interest in NAFTA. Not only because it's a Canada-U.S. story, but also because it's a business story. It's useful there because it's something our subscribers are interested in. It's a business story, but it's an area where we can get scoops and exclusives. We can stay ahead of the pack.

The really big narrative of his presidency, the Russia investigation, there's always a ton of interest in. On the policy side, anything that speaks to a large overarching theme in America, like gun control, health care, there's interest there.

The one advantage you have as foreign media, because you're not covering every file every single day, you can do a big step-back story. During the week that Anthony Scaramucci was the communications director over the summer, it was the craziest week of the craziest presidency. Everything was unhinged. I wrote one story a night, and then I wrote a story at the end of the week that was a summing up of the craziest week of the Trump presidency. You do that on policy debates too. When the Obamacare debates were happening, we weren't going to write a story every day about every twist and turn in the health care saga. But at the end of the week, I wrote one large explanatory story about where the health care debate was at, what policies were on the table and what Trump and the Republicans were trying to do. It was a big summing up that way. As foreign media, you don't have to cover every twist and turn. You can take the bigger-picture view.

5. How do you get scoops?

Getting people inside the White House is difficult. Look at people outside of it. On NAFTA for instance, there are tons of stakeholder groups in business that are invested in the NAFTA negotiations and are heavily involved with it. In Washington, the White

House itself is hard to crack for foreign media, but outside of that, a lot of people in industry associations, business groups, lobbying firms and think tanks are generally pretty accessible and happy to talk to foreign media.

There's been a little bit of advantage on the NAFTA debate because, essentially, the U.S. business community is on the same side as Canada and Mexico. You have Canada, Mexico and U.S. businesses that all want free trade as much as possible. The Trump administration, on the other side, is trying to bring in more protectionist policies. I've had no trouble getting people in U.S. industry and U.S. business to talk to me on the NAFTA stuff. Of course, there are the Canadian and Mexican governments. Those are other people I talk to. Sometimes people in Congress, as well. It's true that the White House itself is hard to crack, but I found that there are so many people to talk to in Washington outside the White House that it's not always necessary to go through them. Phone people up and ask them to lunch. That's the tactic. Then once you get to know them, you can call them on background and say, "What are you hearing?"

6. What is technology and how do you use it in your work?

The first thing I do when I get up in the morning is look at Trump's Twitter account. Sometimes he sets the agenda that way. It's gotten less important over time, but at the beginning of the administration when nobody knew what they were doing, and they were making a lot of announcements, often he would announce policy online, particularly on tax and trade stuff. I remember he'd go on Twitter and threaten companies of setting up factories in Mexico and would have to pay a big border tax.

7. Does it make your work easier or more difficult?

It's easier in the sense that you don't have to be six places at once. If you're working on a story, and you have to spend the day making phone calls, you can quickly watch the briefing and pull the one relevant quote and not waste three hours going to the White House for one quote from Sarah Sanders.

It makes the news cycle really peripatetic. Some days it would be great if I could come in and just focus on one story and do a really great job on it, but the way the news cycle works on social media, especially in the age of Trump, it means you're constantly bombarded with stuff. Some of the time, it's helpful if you find out about stuff that is breaking and want to write about it, but other times, it's just distracting. I spend about half the day monitoring the news making sure I'm not missing anything. I'll spend half an hour working on a trade story, and then something will happen on the gun-control debate, so I'll have to divert to watch the latest news and find out if that's something I need to cover. If I decide it's not, I go back and spend another half hour working on trade, and then something happens on the Mueller investigation, and I go and read the court documents for half an hour and decide that it isn't a big enough development for me to jump on, so I go back to trade for another half hour. It ends up being a big demand on your time. You spend half your time monitoring stuff instead of actually working on something.

8. How many other journalists from your organization work with you in Washington?

I'm a one-man bureau.

9. How do you collaborate with other foreign correspondents or foreign media in covering the Trump administration?

We collaborate in the sense that, sometimes, we'll share notes if we're covering the same story. We'll help each other out. "Here's a contact you might want to talk to." "Here's something interesting that I heard." But in terms of formally working on anything, I stick to myself.

Chidanand Rajghatta, Times of India

1. How long have you been a foreign correspondent in Washington?

I've been here a long time. I came here in 1994. I was posted here by a newspaper called Indian Express, which is another large newspaper. In terms of foreign correspondents, that's very unusual because most correspondents rotate every three or four years. I'm an old dog here in D.C. I've been here almost 25 years. After six years with Indian Express, I switched to Times of India. I had worked with them in the 90s and then came back. I've been here ever since. I've covered four presidents and six presidential elections. I've done two terms of Clinton, two terms of Bush, two terms of Obama and, hopefully, just one term of Trump.

2. Why did you want to work as a correspondent in Washington?

I've done 24 years in Washington and, before that, I did 12 years as a journalist in India. When I was in India, I covered the foreign ministry. Then I was the editor at the Indian Express in Mumbai. The joke is that they got rid of me because I was very young and hard headed, so they said, "Let's exile this guy and send him off as a foreign correspondent." I had gone through a rough time personally, so I wanted to move away and get some time and space by myself. I came here to heal. I thought I'd be here only a couple years. I fought to have my contract reduced from two years to three years, and I thought I'd be right back. But as they say, "The best laid plans."

3. How many other journalists from your organization worked with you in Washington?

Most Indian newspapers are just one-man bureaus. They can afford more. The papers make a lot of money out of advertising, but they are conservative in deploying resources. No Indian paper has ever had more than 10 correspondents.

4. What obstacles did you face in covering the Trump campaign, if any?

Our resources are fairly modest and stretched thin, so you have to forego a lot of reporting. In the old days, I'd travel a lot more often. Now you're always beaten by TV, Facebook and Twitter. The old-fashioned shoe-level reporting is declining.

In terms of access, it's no different than before I came. The Obama folks were not very accessible either. Here, it's mainly confusion and lack of personnel. These guys didn't expect to win the election, so when he came to office, there were not enough people to fill the positions. He's an outsider, so he's clueless about the right person for the right job. The president doesn't have a clue, and all these guys are mostly domestic oriented. It took a long time to fill positions, and even now, I don't think they've filled them all. In the old days, you knew the hierarchy. There was the secretary of state, and he was supported by a deputy secretary, and under him, there was an undersecretary. There are several assistant secretaries for each region of the world, and many of them remain

unfilled. The State Department itself got emasculated, so access was difficult. You simply didn't know who to call or whom to talk to. I saw that in the first year, and I don't think it's gotten better in the past few months.

5. How did covering Trump compare with other administrations?

I came here during the Clinton era, and it was incredible. I come from a free country, and we have a good traditional free press. But personally and temperamentally, Indian officials are very closed and tight lipped. They are fearful of the press, and they are poor communicators. I came here, and it was a miracle for me. It opened my eyes that it was a fairly open system. You really work the phones, and you get almost anything. In the Clinton era, access was fairly good. But I was young and new and working the phones and going. It was the early days of the Internet, so you had to physically go to places, whether it was a hearing or a briefing.

6. What are some practical ways in which you overcame or adapted to those obstacles in your reporting?

You just have to prioritize. Ideally, there should be three or four correspondents. If I had the resources, I'd deploy someone in Washington to do politics, somebody in Los Angeles to do entertainment and Hollywood, someone in New York for high finance, and someone in San Francisco to do technology because there's a big readership for that, too. I end up doing all of this. Sometimes I'm very stretched.

7. Did you collaborate with other foreign correspondents or foreign media in covering the Trump campaign?

We used to a lot more in the old days. There was an Indian guy I would call if I missed something, so we would do that type of information exchange. I hung out a lot at the National Press Building in the late 90s. We'd have a coffee club in the press lounge. There'd be six or eight of us from different newspapers, and we'd exchange notes, and it was fun. It kind of dissipated after 2000. One, Sept. 11 scattered everyone, and we all got busy. Two, technology killed that. You could multitask, and everything was online. In the old days, we collected physical transcripts from the Pentagon, White House and State Department because you couldn't be at all three briefings. You don't do that now because it's online. A lot has changed, and we all work independently now. A bunch of us did go together to Cleveland for the Republican National Convention and the Democratic National Convention. Four of us Indian correspondents traveled together. I've done that with a bunch of other correspondents, too. Occasionally, we do pool sources. There's so much on the wires. You have collaborations, and you can buy The New York Times services and The Guardian.

8. How did you use technology in your work?

A lot changed after 2000 after YouTube and Google came. Now, everything is live streamed. You have many ways to access briefings. Unless you need to ask a question,

you don't need to go physically. Technology changed a lot of reporting. But at the same time, you could cover a lot more and do a lot more than you could. Personal access was a lot better in the early days, but as technology took over, physical access became less. Now they just have conference calls. The White House and the State Department just say they're going to have a conference call, and everyone tunes in by phone. You meet less and less people personally. I haven't gone to a White House briefing in a long time. The only time I go is when the prime minister or a high Indian official is coming.

Technology allows officials to control the message. And it's not just here. Even in India, the prime minister hasn't had a press conference in two or three years. He tweets. They just put out the message. Social media has changed the way journalists work. In the old days, you had beats. Now, you just follow a bunch of people on Twitter.

9. Did it make your work easier or more difficult, particularly reporting on the Trump campaign?

It has made the job different. It's made it easier in terms of speed and volume. It's irritating to wake up and read his tweets. It's a different era, and I've seen it change before my eyes. I don't know where it's going to go.

10. What did your home audience want to know about the Trump campaign? What issues were important to them? How did that affect your reporting?

The defining question is: What is of interest to our readers? What is India centric? It should be something that informs and educates our readers and looks at it from our perspective. There's a lot of stuff about Trump and Russia. He's mixing the whole thing with the Florida shooting, but the story I just hit send on, I thought the most striking thing was the student rallies. There have been so many school shootings, but this is the first time I sensed and felt students get agitated and angry. I led with that. Unlike U.S. newspapers, which might do three or four different stories - FBI is a separate piece, Russia is a separate piece, students are a separate piece - but for me, because of space constraints and the fact that I have to engage my readers and give them one big picture, I combined everything into one story or two stories at most. I thought the student angle was appealing because our readership is a young demographic, so I always try to look at that. The other thing is the ethnic demographic. There are a lot of Indian students and families in the U.S. Indian students usually over-perform in school, so Indian families tend to gravitate toward good school districts. Straightaway, I guessed there would be Indian kids. Luckily, no Indian was killed, but one was injured, and an Indian teacher who saved a lot of kids had a story. The bottom line is, you look for stories with an Indian angle or an angle that appeals to your readers. You don't follow local or national media here. The other thing with a lot of foreign correspondents, a lot of us don't buy into the American narrative. As a foreign correspondent, you keep an eye out and call out bullshit. You don't necessarily accept the host country's narrative. I don't think highly of the current president, but I try to keep an open mind. I'm not ideologically bound, and I try to keep my politics out of the reporting.

Ching-Yi Chang, Shanghai Media Group

1. How long have you been a correspondent in Washington?

I've been working in Washington since 2010, so almost eight years. Previously, I worked for Hong Kong TV for four years.

2. Why is it important for foreign media to cover Trump?

It's important for the world, not just my audience. But for my outlet especially, it is important because China is the second-largest economy in the world. In every way it is connected with the United States, not just economically, but politically. Everything that happens in the U.S. will definitely influence or impact China and its people. And because the U.S. is the strongest and largest military power in the world. That's the reason why so many foreign media pay very close attention to the Trump administration because every single policy change will have a profound impact on the other country. It's essential. The U.S. is looking inward, and it is more and more isolated from the world. For the past several decades, the United States has been the country to lead the world or connect the world, but now, it has gone back. It's not going to be like what it used to be.

People will always have this misunderstanding about the Trump administration. That it is because of him that the U.S. is isolating itself or spreading racist ideas. That's not just Trump. It's other people in this country who believe protectionism and racism are right. People who have never been out of their state view non-white people as a threat, and it's understandable. This country is going back. The fact that this country is looking more and more inward will have a tremendous impact on the global situation until someone can substitute the United States. It's very sad to me. I used to see this country as the beacon of democracy.

3. What are some of the challenges you face in covering the Trump administration?

We face the same obstacles, whether foreign media or American media, in covering Trump. It's pretty challenging. There are always a lot of issues going on.

They tend not to answer all the questions, even during the press briefing, or sometimes, they just ignore you. That's no better for Western media, so it's basically the same.

The interesting thing is that I covered Obama in the White House for six years, and he didn't like to talk with the media. But Trump, he actually does like to talk with the media. So sometimes before he hops on Marine One, or if he's in the Oval Office, he tends to answer reporters' questions whenever they shout them out much more than Obama. Obama ignored a lot of questions that reporters shouted out. It's an interesting thing that a lot of people don't know.

Trump thinks he's the best spokesperson for himself. That, everybody knows. Obama preferred to have his press secretary answer questions more than anyone else, so we could only look for an answer from the secretary or a spokesperson. But for Trump, he

doesn't think the press secretary can represent him. He probably thinks it's better for him to answer the questions. In a way, it's more transparent.

4. Do you see any other differences between Trump and Obama?

During Obama's administration, everything was synchronized. If you asked a certain question to the White House, to the Pentagon or anywhere else, you'd get the same answer quote by quote. They had a very strict talking point. They'd send out the same talking points to every government bureau or department, so you will get the same answer. It's really quite amazing. It was really synchronized, everything. For the Trump administration, you will get a different answer from the president, the press secretary and even the State Department. Most of the time, 80 percent of the time, they're the same answer. But for the 20 percent of the time, we can't figure out who's giving the right answer. The president, himself, is not quite informed on certain issues.

For example, the domestic violence story about his staff, he waited a week to say out loud his opposition to domestic violence. But during the press briefing, every day, Sarah Sanders said, "Yes, he opposes that." We don't know whether it was Sarah Sanders words because she's a woman and thinks domestic violence is unacceptable.

5. When you don't know who's telling the truth, what do you put in your reporting?

I just put everything. I say, "Sarah Sanders says this, but Trump didn't give a response." We are not the judge. Reporters just provide information to their audience, and they decide whom to trust. For us, we just want to inform them about what is going on.

6. How often would you say you're on Twitter? And is that helpful to your work?

It's half and half. I go to bed, and I read Trump's tweets. The first thing I read when I wake up are Trump's tweets. He tweets 24 hours. The latest tweet was at 4 a.m. It's a 24-hour job paying attention to what he tweets. That's pretty tough to stay caught up because, on average, he tweets seven times. I counted 2,000 something tweets last year. Sometimes, it's in the early morning. Sometimes, it's in the afternoon. So that's difficult.

But the other part of that is we have more to report – much more than the Obama administration because his tweets were kind of boring. It was always very formal, and it wasn't something we'd be interested in. For Trump, through his tweets, we have more stories to cover.

7. Were you denied credentials to Trump's rallies during the campaign?

Yes, for the Trump campaign. They didn't credential foreign media. Just once, for the New Hampshire rally, that was the only time foreign media got credentials to cover that huge campaign rally in New Hampshire. It was in this baseball stadium in New Hampshire. It was huge. And Trump was saying on stage, "I sponsored this campaign, so I want all the media to come and cover it. If I don't, it's my campaign." So I think, that time, he was just probably happy and wanted to let all the media go cover the rally. That was the one time I got to cover his campaign rallies during the primary.

8. If you weren't allowed to go to the campaign rallies, did that limit the stories you could report?

No, not really. During the primary, all the candidates from the GOP were in New Hampshire or Iowa. If you couldn't cover Trump, you could go to Marco Rubio, Jeb Bush, etc. Then, other American wires covered Trump's event, so we could just compile it, and it's done. So we could go to other campaigns.

9. Did you have trouble getting into the other candidates' rallies?

Let me put it this way, I was never denied access to Rubio or Jeb Bush's campaigns. I don't think it's because they welcomed foreign media. The reason is, nobody wanted to cover their campaigns, no domestic media.

Jeb Bush said, "Please, come." I remember that. In Iowa, it was really boring with not a lot of media. They're not as interesting as Trump or as entertaining. Rubio, same thing. I covered Rubio's last campaign in Florida. Not even the Secret Service was there to protect him. They didn't see him as a viable candidate, so nobody came. One time, Marco Rubio couldn't even use the microphone to talk because the sound system didn't work. You could barely hear him. It was very sad.

Trump was so popular. I guess they just wanted to limit to domestic media because foreign media, our audience, they don't have a vote, so they don't care. Why would you take them in if you don't have enough space? It's understandable to me, so I won't say they don't welcome foreign media.

I will say, on the GOP side, they tend not to welcome foreign media. Their base doesn't want to see that.

10. Do you often go to press briefings? Do you think that's a valuable use of your time?

I go to the White House almost every week, roughly two or three days a week. It's valuable to go, rather than just watch online, because you can observe the situation in the briefing room. If you're looking only through the camera, you only see the spokesperson. You cannot see the full picture of what is going on. You can observe other officials' expressions. It's definitely worthwhile to go and see what's going on. It's important to pull the sound bites, but other than that, there are a lot of other things going on.

Daniel Dale, The Toronto Star

1. How long have you been a foreign correspondent and how long have you worked in Washington?

Three years.

2. Why did you become a foreign correspondent?

I never aspired to be a foreign correspondent in particular, but I have always been especially interested in Washington and in American politics. I never aspired to cover wars or disasters or go to another continent. I helped out with coverage of the 2008 and 2012 elections. This job happened to come open while I was looking for another beat after covering city hall in Toronto, so it was perfect timing.

3. Why did you want to work in Washington?

I've always been fascinated by this place and what goes on here.

4. What topics are particularly interesting to your readers? What do they care about?

It's pretty broad. Right now, everyone is captivated by the Trump show. Anything about Trump doing something fascinating or outrageous gets really good readership judging by online metrics. People are also interested in the policy aspects of the Trump presidency. Beyond the show, what is he actually doing? Help us understand this. I try to explain the complicated stuff happening. Some of these weeks, we have 30 things happening, and it's all moving so fast. People in Canada, and people in the U.S. too, don't have time to follow every blow, every turn of events, so I'll do a piece that's really comprehensible and digestible.

My job isn't just covering Trump and Washington. It's covering the U.S. more broadly, so I try to go find stories outside the Washington bubble. That's become more of a challenge in this era because Trump just dominates everything. There are so many stories about Trump to write.

In 2016, I spent a weekend in Wisconsin, the Milwaukee area, and I wrote two stories. The longer one was about housing segregation in Milwaukee and what it's like to live in a racially segregated place. I also wrote about the abortion wars and spent some time at an abortion clinic writing about what it's like to fight off restrictions from conservative state government. In 2015, I spent a week in Massachusetts writing about the heroin opioid crisis.

5. What obstacles do you face in covering the Trump administration?

The biggest obstacle is that I have no access. Through Twitter and people coming to know who I am, some people return my phone calls now, but it's all people who are not

in the inner sanctum. They're not people in the rooms with Trump. They're former strategists and so on. I can't really break stories. No matter how hard you work, no matter how good you are, you're never going to get scoops. There are a million reporters here, and the power brokers don't care about you because you don't write for their audience. You're not physically in the White House, so you're not physically in their world. That's a challenge.

Another challenge is I'm just one person here. It's a one-person bureau. There are dozens of stories to write every day, and so the challenge is, what do I write about? And where can I be useful? It's trying to strike a balance of covering the hot story but not doing what everyone else is doing and trying to find a way to be valuable.

6. How does reporting on the Trump administration compare to other U.S. administrations that you've covered?

I was here for the end of the Obama administration. I had just a few months before the story became the campaign. Even when I was covering the Obama administration, everything was so regimented. There weren't any scandals at that point, or really ever. There were some controversies, but they were few and far between. The news was carefully stage managed by the Obama administration. It was policy announcements and so on. In terms of what we've seen, it was boring. It was very structured. There was less news. The daily news cycle, the times of the news cycle, was far more conventional. Things would happen at 11 a.m. because that's when the announcement was. You could almost tune out the Obama administration and focus on whatever story you were writing. You didn't have to be on Twitter all the time because nothing was happening. Now, it's constant. 6 a.m. to midnight people are tweeting. The pace is much different.

7. What is the perception of Trump in Canada?

It's very poor. His approval rating in Canada is below 20 percent. It's overwhelmingly negative. There's tons of Trump news on Facebook and other media. I'm part of it, but I'm not *the* opinion shaper. A lot of Canadians consume political news like they're Americans. They're using all the same sources.

8. Have you been denied access to a campaign event or a press briefing?

During the campaign, at first you could just show up to a Trump rally. Then, later in the campaign, when he took off and got so busy, they would deny me credentials. I think they would deny all foreign correspondents credentials. If I wanted to go, I'd have to line up with the giant crowd, which I'd sometimes do. I didn't have to be in the press pen. I preferred to be with the crowd. Sometimes, that just requires you to line up five hours in advance.

For the White House, they have what's called hard passes for people who can show up anytime. They also have day and weekly passes for people who don't have hard passes. My paper hasn't had a hard pass in many years. We're supposed to be able to get day and weekly passes, but whenever I go through the process to apply for that, they just ignore

me and don't respond at all. Other than when Trudeau is here on visits, I don't get to go. There's really no reason for me to go, I just want to go to a briefing or two to get a feel for it. If they told me I was denied for some reason, that would be better in some way. Now, I'm just like, "Did they see it? Did I do something wrong?"

9. Why do you think the administration denies some international news media access to rallies and press briefings?

I have no idea why they do what they do. The demand is very high right now, and it really is a small room, so I understand if they have too many applicants.

10. What effect will that have on the stories you can report?

It doesn't really affect my reporting. Maybe I'd have more color in a story. For the most part, the briefings are televised, and they're the most tweeted things in Washington, so I don't think it's actually a big deal.

11. How has technology affected your work routines in covering the administration?

I'm on Twitter all day. Trump is tweeting a lot, so I have to see what he's tweeting and everything else that is going on — Capitol Hill reporters tweeting from their gaggles and people breaking stories about various things. It's hard to get away from Twitter because so much is happening there right now.

12. Does it make your work easier or more difficult?

I think easier. To some extent, it allows me to virtually travel without leaving Washington. In this era of declining budgets, I wanted to right about Medicaid requirements in Kentucky, so I just found a bunch of people through Twitter who were affected by the new rules. I've done a bunch of stories like that, finding people around the country who are affected by policies. In getting people to talk to me, former Obama strategists, a lot of them follow me on Twitter. Whereas before, I'd have no way to reach them. They wouldn't return my calls, but now I can just DM them. I can ask for a quick comment on such and such, and sometimes they'll say yes. In terms of acquiring knowledge about Washington, it's this amazing collection of experts sharing their expertise for free. I think I've become much more versed on what's happening on Capitol Hill because people are tweeting about that.

13. How do you collaborate with other foreign correspondents or foreign media in covering the Trump administration?

We're all friendly, but they're our competitors, so we do our own thing.

Lidia Catalano, La Stampa

1. What work did you do while you were here in Washington?

The Atlantic Council was my sponsor, and their main goal is to promote cooperation between the U.S. and the European Union. This is why they encourage European journalists to travel to the States, widely around the country. It's a huge country, so every place you go is so different. You don't really know what the U.S. is like if you just go to New York or Washington, D.C. I think it was great that they paid and covered my expenses so I could travel as a European journalist and see as much as I could and get first-hand experience of the variety of the country. I didn't have any assignment specifically. They encouraged you to travel based on your interests. I was interested in how the workplace is changing a lot. There's a lot less security and benefits, so what does that mean for a young person approaching the job market? What does that mean for an adult who has been in the workplace for a while but might have lost his job during the Great Recession? A lot of companies are outsourcing their workers. You're not an employee anymore. What does that mean for your life? How can you plan for your future? How can you raise kids? What happens when you don't have health insurance? That is what I was trying to analyze.

When I was there, there was a lot of stuff going on because it was the first year of the Trump administration. I wanted to see the people who elected Trump and how the U.S. changed from the Obama era to the new era. I felt very lucky to be there at that moment. It was great for a European journalist to be there at that historic moment. I tried to see a lot.

2. What resources should there be for foreign reporters?

It really depends on the government. The U.S. government has no intention of investing in high-quality journalism. They are cutting funds for journalists and high-quality reporting. There are a lot of grants and opportunities for foreign journalists to get well trained. There's less than five or six years ago, but there's a lot more than here in Italy.

I did this fellowship, but I didn't get paid. I had to give up my salary, but I got richer because of the experience because it's so big and so important. But you're always thinking, "Why should I do that? Why should I accept not being paid for three months in order to become a better journalist?" My newspaper should be happy because that makes me more powerful and more self-confident and better trained on international news. That's the ideal world, but then there's the real world where newspapers don't have resources. It's always compromising, but if you are passionate about what you are doing, you know there's going to be sacrifices.

Governments should do more. Trump was very violent against journalists. "I don't want you to ask me this question." "This is fake news." People are being very skeptical of the main news sources, and there are still a lot of people who get information from alternative media, like social media. For a while, I was moderating and posting news on La Stampa social media. You see a lot of people attacking mainstream new sources,

saying, “This is fake news,” “We don’t believe you,” “You’re not being critical” or “You are a slave of the main power.” In order to convince people that you are doing your job, you have to be very, very accurate. Quote all of the sources and add links so they cannot say it’s fake news. They will know you’re being honest. There’s not a recipe or an easy solution to that, but one thing journalists can do is be very precise in their job. Social media can be very dangerous in the spread of fake news.

3. What were some of the differences you saw in the U.S. as it changed from the Obama era to the Trump era?

I was traveling a lot, and I would wake up in a different state, and the first thing I would do in the morning was watch the news and read the local newspaper. What I realized was that there was this huge and very violent fight between the Trump administration and the news sources. Watching Fox News is very different than watching CNN. It was like when you watch a football match. Some media sources were so against the administration, and others would completely not criticize him.

I think after Trump was elected, the media realized they did not have a clear idea of what was going on in the country. After that, they felt pushed to do more, to travel more and see how regular folks are living their lives. What are they struggling for? I think the mistakes that they made resulted in the media going deeper into stories. I’ve seen a lot of great stories being covered after Trump was elected. The situation is evolving a lot. I’d love to be there and witness more about what is happening. It’s not static at all. You are lucky if you can be a journalist and cover this transformation.

4. Trump’s over-the-top actions are pushing American politics toward Italian-style theatrical politics. How did your home experiences help you report on Washington? Is there anything U.S. media can learn from Italian media?

What we learned from what happened in the U.S. is that the U.S. media made a mistake and did not know what was going on. We were scared, and we didn’t want to make the same mistake. We tried to focus more on the problems of people and their everyday life. But still, we could not predict what happened. People that work in the media don’t have enough resources, so people can’t pay journalists to go to the places where things are happening. You end up covering the news while sitting at your desk. If you don’t talk or meet people, you can’t have a complete picture of what’s happening. We tried our best not to make the same mistake.

I don’t think European media can teach the U.S. media. The New York Times is a model for everyone in the world. English speaking countries can talk to a wider public. They are leaders, The Washington Post and The New York Times, but the reason they do very well is because they have the resources, and they invest in a lot of high-quality news and investigations. They are doing it more and more. Here, newspapers are losing readers. We started giving information for free online.

After a while, we stopped doing that because we work a lot to produce that information. Why should we give that to people for free? People who want high-quality reporting,

they should pay. But they are not educated to do that anymore. That's a challenge for the global news. When the variety of sources is so big, you are forced to do the very best. You can't produce something that is just OK.

5. What is the importance of international journalism in the age of Trump?

We just had an election here in Italy, and the populists won. Steve Bannon, chief adviser of the Trump campaign, compared what is happening in Italy to what is happening in the U.S. The reason populists are being elected is people do not have jobs. It's something happening here in Italy, and it was a problem when Trump was elected. Immigration is a big topic. There are a lot of people coming here, escaping from wars and persecution. The U.S. is facing the same kind of thing with the Latin American population. Since Italians don't have jobs, they say, "They're going to steal our jobs, so we don't want them to come here."

You need to see what's happening on the other side of the world because it helps you understand what you are experiencing yourself. The world is so connected more and more. Even politically, you cannot look at the U.S. and Italy and the European Union as separate bodies. They are connected.

With the Trump campaign, we've had Silvio Berlusconi for 20 years, and they have kind of the same character. They're both businessmen, they're very rich and they have the same approach. We were looking at the Trump campaign, and we had experienced the same thing before. Of course, Trump is a lot more powerful than Silvio Berlusconi. International news is important because we think it's apart from us, but it's really not. It really helps you understand your life in a more connected world.

Martin Bialecki, German Press Agency

1. How many people work with you in Washington?

We cover the White House with three colleagues from the German side, four colleagues from our English service and one colleague from our Spanish service.

2. What are some of the challenges you face in covering the Trump administration?

A big difference from the prior administration under Obama is that we have way less access to the White House than before. The Trump administration has a spokesperson in the National Security Council who would rarely answer a question for us. We do not have a hard pass for the White House any longer, which makes it extremely difficult to cover it at all. We have to heavily rely on other media sources like The New York Times, CNN, MSNBC and Fox. The original access to the White House is way more difficult than before.

The second obstacle is the sheer amount of news, given that the news cycle is so fast today. You rarely have a story lasting longer than one day. Sometimes, it only lasts for two or three hours. Then you have four or five stories within 24 hours, and you don't know where to dig deeper.

3. How does the lack of access limit your reporting?

It does not limit the outcome or the number of stories we can file. I think the number has at least doubled in the last year because the interest in Germany is rising, given that Trump's an unusual president and nobody knows what's going on. We have to find our own sources around the White House in think tanks, in former government members, in commentators, in pundits and so on.

4. How often do you go to the press briefing at the White House?

Our White House correspondent left the agency one month ago, and she was at the White House press briefing nearly every day. Now, since she's left and her place has not been filled, we are there one or two times a week. As soon as her position is filled again, we will be there every day.

5. Would you say going to the press briefing is a valuable use of your time?

Yes and no. No because it's available online. Yes because you can speak to other colleagues and other members of the press at the White House. This is of high value because you can get some other angle and get better information that is simply not accessible online.

6. Were you denied credentials to some of the campaign rallies?

Yes we were, heavily. We complained about it and filed some protest notes, but it was all pointless because they did not react at all. We were denied at least six or seven times.

7. Could you speculate about why that is?

It might be the sheer number. In hindsight, the main reason is that they were insecure about control of the information flow. In addition to that, they are simply not interested in foreign media. The Clinton campaign said the same thing. They said, “We don’t need you. Please understand that the sheer number of media is so high that we are not interested in you.” You don’t target people who can’t go vote, which is not true because we have a Spanish service too. But the Trump campaign never gave us any reason for the denials. Never.

8. Did you go to any of the other rallies and would you say they were more welcoming to foreign media?

Yes we did. Our experience was that they seemed more experienced with foreign media than the Trump campaign, which was really a closed shop.

9. Would you say that this decreased access to the White House contributes to his low approval ratings around the world?

I think maybe it does, but one of the most successful stories I’ve filed in the last year was a very, very balanced story about the success of the Trump administration, simply saying all that he’s reached so far, such as his deregulation and his rolling back of Obamacare and environment regulations. That was a success for the administration, although I do not consider it a success at all. That was a story that was easy to research and file without access to the White House. Had they given us any access, even better for them. It’s hard to say if the lower access really has an influence on his image in Germany. I don’t know. It might be the case that if we had greater access, the approval ratings might be even lower in Germany. If you look at the White House, it’s total turmoil, chaos. They cannot have any interest in letting anybody dig deep.

10. When you go to the press briefings, do you find that they spread out the questions or call on the same people all the time?

They spread out the questions. They changed that in the last months. In the first weeks and months, they always asked the same type of media, always the same guys. First Sean Spicer, then Sarah Sanders. Nowadays, it’s improved compared to the Obama administration. Earnest would call on guys in the first two to three rows. Sanders is trying to go a little bit back and forth. Of course, it’s always Fox and The New York Times, but it’s a lot of different media, given that you have 40 seats. She tries to be kind of fair.

11. Why is it important to cover the Trump administration for a global audience?

It is important. It’s the last remaining superpower. I’m struggling with the coverage on the other hand because you don’t know any longer that what you cover is important. These news cycles are so fast, and the distraction out of the White House is immense. We don’t know if they distract us on purpose or if it’s just the way they act because they do not know what to do. Given the military superpower of the United States, its economic influence and the interdependence of the world, nearly everything the White House

decides is of importance. On the other hand, I sometimes do not know if we focus on the important stuff or if we follow the tweets and throw a smoking grenade on that and distract from the real important items. We try our best, but it's hard.

12. How does Twitter play into your reporting? Does it make your job easier or harder?

Way easier. There are two dimensions. His tweeting changed our coverage a lot. We had discussions with our newsroom. Every newsroom probably has. The newsrooms that are not experienced covering Trump would always say, "We need every single tweet he puts out. Please report on that." We are very reluctant of that. We say, "No we do not" because we have to make a difference. Is this important? Is this of any news value?

I would be completely unable to work and cover this White House without my TweetDeck and my columns, which allow me to see and follow what the experts who have covered the White House for 30 years are reporting. It's my map and my information stream for the most important news. I have U.S. journalists, White House journalists and my column with Trump pundits. I've developed a pattern I can follow. I do not know any alternative to this other than TweetDeck.

Nadia Bilbassy-Charters, Al-Arabiya

1. How long have you been a foreign correspondent and how long have you worked in Washington?

I started as a war correspondent in Africa in 1996. At the time, there was no social media, so the exposure wasn't as big as it is now. Then I moved to Washington 15 years ago in the summer of 2003 after I was embedded during the invasion of Iraq. I moved from Kenya to Washington as a senior diplomatic correspondent for Al-Arabiya, which is one of the biggest Arab channels on TV. We reach 120 million people across the world. I covered primarily foreign policy. I covered the White House and the State Department. I worked with Al-Arabiya until 2008 and went back in 2012. I've been the bureau chief for Al-Arabiya since 2015. I run the office. It's a medium-sized office of 10 people. We cover everything to do with Washington, the Middle East, foreign policy, national security and, sometimes, domestic issues, particularly immigration under Trump because it affects Arab people.

2. What obstacles do you face in covering the Trump administration?

It is a huge difference. I came to Washington during the Iraq War under the Bush administration. Then we moved to eight years with Obama, and now we're under Trump. The people who surround the president, whether the press office or the National Security Council, they are not really that forthcoming when it comes to information, answering emails or choosing questions at the daily briefing. They seem to go back to a small group of reporters, very friendly reporters, like right-wing media or traditional media like Reuters, AP, CNN, ABC, Fox, etc. Foreign reporters are not really a priority for the administration. It's really hard to get information, whether it's on background or interviews with senior officials.

Also, the sensationalism of news. Every day we have to deal with something. During the Obama and Bush administrations, the issues were very substantial — the invasion of Iraq, the threat from Iran, the war in Syria, Israeli-Palestinian questions. Nowadays, we get distracted by love affairs between the communications director and a senior official. The Russia investigation is big, but many stories are about what the president said and what the president tweeted, so it's changed the nature of reporting. He no longer uses the method that official media rely on. Now, he uses Twitter because he thinks the media is against him. He often uses the phrase, "The media are the enemy of the people." He sows mistrust between the two sides and uses social media, mainly Twitter, to share his policies.

Saying all of that, we do have access. Sometimes we'll go to do a pool reporting in the Oval Office. Pool reporting is normally five minutes maximum. The president gives a statement, and the reporters will shout a question. It depends on his mood. Sometimes he answers, sometimes he doesn't. But sometimes, he opens the meeting with Congressional leaders, and the pool will be there for 50 minutes, almost an hour. It's unheard of. He has a very unorthodox way of dealing with the media. Most of the people with him from the

campaign are not career diplomats who served on the National Security Council or the White House. From that point of view, it's hard to build relationships with them.

3. What are some practical ways in which you overcome or adapt to those obstacles in your reporting?

We don't even have background. I often write an email to the White House to say, "I'm writing this story. Can we get a reaction to this or that?" There's no response. You go with what the president says on Twitter or an official statement that comes from the spokeswoman. Otherwise, no one gives you an on-background briefing. You're left to guess what the policy is. People in the White House don't know what the policy is. The president makes up his mind at the last minute, and sometimes people are not informed. It's the whole structure of how the White House functions. The media is just a mirror of the chaos that happens in the White House. Often, it's a very chaotic situation.

4. Have you been denied access to a campaign event or a press briefing?

We aren't denied access, but we don't get questions. It's really hard to get a question. It's frustrating because you go there and can spend an hour and a half waiting. When you put your hand in the air, she will never call on you. She calls the same people all the time. She memorizes 15 names, and that's it. She goes to them all the time. She doesn't feel like she has to get out of the briefing room. The briefing room draws so many journalists. It has 40 seats in the room, and people stand up in the corridors. But she doesn't come back. She doesn't get out of her comfort zone. She knows certain people, and she calls them by name, and that's it.

With the president, he hasn't held a press conference for a long, long time, but he doesn't resort to the traditional way of doing it like in the old days with the Bush administration or the Obama administration. Trump likes random chaos, so he will pick random people with their hand up. One day, he did give me a question at a press conference with the emir of Kuwait. That was random. It was not planned or anything. That's a plus, in a way, because he breaks with tradition. There is access in terms of going to the Oval Office. Sometimes you can shout a question. Sometimes he answers, sometimes he doesn't. And he talks more than Obama. He always talks, so it's guaranteed that something's going to come out when he comes out of a meeting at the White House.

5. Do you find it valuable to go to the press briefing?

It's not valuable at all. It's a complete waste of time. They never stick to the time. They will say the daily briefing starts at 2 p.m. Sometimes it starts at 2:30 p.m. or an hour late. I've had a hard pass for 15 years, so I can go in and out easier than most foreign reporters. Saying that, she never calls me. Sometimes I feel frustrated because I feel like I have good questions about foreign policy. To be honest with you, even if I asked, she doesn't have an answer. Her answers are very abrupt and very short because she doesn't know. She's not very well informed and versed in foreign policy. You might ask a brilliant question, but there's no answer. Yes, it's a waste of time because you can watch it online. CNN loves to show the briefings daily. They never did that during the Obama administration. They bring it live every single day as if it was some popular program.

The disadvantage of not showing up is that your face is not known. Part of our work is recognition. You need to be part of the White House press corps, and to do that, you need to show up on the hope that you're going to get a questions one day. The president of the White House foreign reporters has tried to get a meeting with her, and it's very frustrating. I've been trying since January, and I still have not gotten a five-minute meeting with her.

6. What effect does this have on the stories you can report?

I always argue that to be able to do your job as a reporter, you have to be informed to serve the public better. You do a better job when you are informed. That was missing, and we have to have two-way communication. At the same time, a relationship with the White House is a conditional relationship, as with any official. We're not their friends. We're not their enemies. I'm there to do my job and to ask the questions that need to be asked. Often, we don't have the official line, so it's frustrating. It's OK if somebody else asks my question, but often, I need to ask the question, and I don't get the chance.

7. How has Twitter affected your work routines?

I have an alert when the president tweets, so I get it on my iPhone. Every time he tweets something, we know it's the official policy of the president, so we take it seriously. For the first time, we actually started to include his tweets when we edit our pieces. We scan a picture of his tweet and insert it in our story. It's easier because we update the story. We could have written a story before and used what the White House told us the day before, but because the president tweets often, it's really up to date. We use the latest of what he said and include it in our story. It reaches so many people, and you can see the reaction online and how people interact with his tweet. Sometimes you get the reaction almost immediately, whether it's from Congress or other people, especially when he tweets negatively. It's a very dynamic way of covering the news. It's interactive.

8. How many other journalists from your organization work with you in Washington?

We are 10 all together – reporters, producers and technical staff.

9. How do you collaborate with other foreign correspondents or foreign media in covering the Trump administration?

When I do an important interview, it is shared with everyone because we give it to Reuters and the AP. American networks call us if it's something significant, and they quote us. We share this information with everyone. Nowadays, with social media, everything is online, so we have it on all platforms: Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Periscope, Snapchat. There's so many ways of exposing the story. So, yes, we do cooperate. We do share information.

The most important thing in our work is competition, but if we do an exclusive interview with someone, it's in our interest to spread the story and to share it with international media. That was the case with many interviews. I did an interview with the last CIA

director, John Brennan, and it was quoted in Bloomberg, The Wall Street Journal, Reuters and elsewhere. I believe that all journalists should share with the competition. It's in our interest to share information and to hold people in power accountable. The more we talk to each other, the more we know if someone has been treated badly by the White House or accused of something not right. Then, everybody will stand up together. Especially now, the press in a democracy is vital. We've seen how much this White House is trying to erode the concept of free press and transparency. In general, it's our job to hold officials accountable. If there's something wrong, we have to report that and say that it's not true.

10. Is there anything I've missed that you think I should know?

In the first year at the White House, it was trial and error because they weren't used to how to operate in the White House. It took them a while to fill positions and even have a spokesperson for the National Security Council, which is supposed to be in charge of all foreign policy. It was hard. And now even a year later, it's not as easy and as smooth as we think. Of course, with all the people being fired and with all the scandals, it may get a little more difficult to sift through all that stuff to make sure you are using your time as a reporter wisely and not distracted by superficial issues. Focus on the real issues.

Working as a foreign reporter in Washington is interesting. Most foreign policy issues involve the Middle East, minus the challenge from North Korea and the economic rise of China. If you think about it, it's everything else: Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Daesh and the challenge from terrorist organizations. This is why it should be a little bit more focused. Although the State Department primarily deals with foreign policy, everybody knows it's the president who calls the shots. Not the secretary of state or the secretary of defense. This is why the White House is very relevant to cover.

Sabrina Siddiqui, The Guardian

1. Tell me about the time The Guardian was not invited to attend the gaggle with Sean Spicer?

That was something where a lot of news organizations pushed back because the access at the White House had increasingly become limited. It seemed like the press office, which was, at the time, led by Sean Spicer, was scaling back the number of daily briefings and no longer making them open to the press, which had long been the tradition, meaning anyone with a credential could attend. That article was a straight news story insofar as there was tension building between the White House and the press, and it seemed like they decided in that moment to pick and choose who could come to a particular briefing that was held that day. I think a lot of us thought it was of news value because it showed that emerging rift between the White House and the press, but also because they weren't being transparent. They were trying to limit access.

We were among a host of media outlets that were barred from attending. A few of those outlets, not The Guardian specifically in this case, had in the preceding days or weeks, written stories that the White House perceived as negative and cast the White House in a certain light. It did look like they were retaliating. And again, it broke from the historic tradition of the freedom of the press and the obligation the White House has to respect the freedom of the press and the First Amendment and put aside any personal grievances that they have with the coverage of the administration.

2. Do you think that tension has gotten better or deteriorated since then?

Broadly speaking, the relationship between the White House and the press remains contentious. On any given day, you can see some of the hostility between Sarah Sanders, who now conducts the meetings, and certain members of the media. It becomes very aggressive, and it escalates very quickly. It doesn't mean everyone is constantly at loggerheads, but the tone is a lot more personal and defensive than it had been in previous administrations. There has been some improvement insofar as they have been holding the briefing nearly daily, which has been the expectation. There is no indication, more recently, that they have been barring reporters from attending. Having said that, there have been instances where they have not allowed a reporter to ask a question or clearly shut down a reporter from asking questions. Sometimes it's because they don't like that reporter. The president still belittles reporters individually by name on social media or at press conferences. The White House also attacked the media in a way that is uncharacteristic of the office that it holds. Is it better compared to a very, very rocky start? Yes, there's some degree of everyone doing their jobs, but there's still an underlying negativity and hostility unlike there ever has been before.

3. What obstacles did you face in covering the Trump campaign, if any?

There's just not a lot of transparency. It's a problem in whatever administration you cover, but they're trying so hard to protect Trump's image. They so often don't tell us what he's doing on any given day. We're operating with a lot less information than you would typically have. I'm writing a story about the meeting with the gaming industry

he's having in response to the Parkland shooting, and they wouldn't even offer any details on who's coming, what the discussion is going to look like, what the goal is and why the president thinks the perspective of the gaming industry is pertinent to the debate over gun control. These are just basic questions that any other White House would have likely responded to. On weekends, they pretend he's not golfing, but everyone knows he is. It might seem mundane, but it's about having a public record of the president's activities. They have resentment toward certain members of the media in a way that makes it difficult to forge relationships with them as sources you have to engage on a day-to-day basis. It's difficult to cultivate a relationship with the people there if you do not engage in a certain type of access journalism that is also going to include writing stories that include their spin almost verbatim. That's not the way that it should be.

4. Do you get more sources outside the White House?

A lot of it is on Capitol Hill where you can still go out to lawmakers and ask them questions directly. You can talk to aides. Regardless of their party, whether they support the president or not, there's a more long-standing tradition of how you deal with the press. There's an understanding of the job that reporters are trying to do. Across agencies, you still have people you can speak to there. It depends on whom you're dealing with. Under Trump, because he's brought in people who don't have traditional political backgrounds, there are a lot more people in some of these high-level positions, and their staff included, who have a fundamentally different way of operating and don't care if it's breaking with the norms of the free press. You get a sense that this administration does not hold the same view of freedom of the press as those that preceded it.

5. What are the differences in the Trump and Obama administrations?

I've been at the Guardian for three years. I covered the 2016 campaign and the White House. Before that, I was at the Huffington Post covering the Obama administration and Congress. The Obama administration would certainly go on the defensive when needed. There were moments, of course, when they had problems with the press or the way the media covered a certain issue. There are always going to be times when you disagree, but there was always a level of professionalism between both parties. Although I didn't cover President Bush's White House, my understanding from others is that they similarly had a cordial relationship with the press and kept things professional.

The Obama administration has come under criticism for seeking to prosecute reporters that they believed had been involved in leaks that violated national security standards. That was something they were criticized for, but there was never anything that rose to the level of the president himself declaring an all-out war against the media, which is what Trump has done, stating the press is the enemy of the American public and calling out reporters by name and laying them out there for his supporters to go after, knowing full well that that is going to happen. The tone is set from the top, and it creates an environment where more and more members of the public become skeptical of the media, at a minimum, or start to harbor violent feelings toward them. There is certainly a feeling among the press that there has been encouraging of violence toward the media under this particular president and throughout the course of his campaign. That is a strikingly

different place to be in. It goes back to the First Amendment, and it shows a lack of regard for that part of the Constitution. Whether you're talking about the Obama administration or any other previous administration, you simply didn't see it manifest itself in the same way.

Under the Obama administration, the Treasury Department was criticized for not allowing Fox News to come to a briefing, and it led to this big backlash. Then, they actually opened the door to Fox and said, "We've heard the criticism, so we're inviting you to the briefing." They acknowledged they had made a mistake. That wasn't the White House, but it was still under the Obama administration. With this White House, there's never an apology for disinviting or barring people from coming. There's never an apology for anything, nor is there an effort to correct course. That, too, is a distinction. Despite now more than a year of criticism over its handling of the press, the White House has not fundamentally shifted its prose or its posture.

6. Would you say the press briefing is a valuable use of your time because everything can be streamed online?

This has been debated quite a bit because a lot of it is theatre when it comes to the briefing. But the purpose of going is if there's a question you have to ask directly, you have the opportunity to ask it on the spot and get not just a typically rehearsed statement. Of course, you get that from the briefing, but when you can get something more candid or force a response, that's valuable. With email, they always have the option of not responding or ignoring it. That doesn't mean we don't email with the press office or try to call them if we need a response or statement for a story. The other reason is to show that you are a reporter covering this White House and that you're not going away and there's an incentive for them to have a rapport with you. If they see that you're one of the reporters who covers the White House daily, they're more likely to include you when they do smaller briefings or off-the-record events, to send you background or respond to you more quickly when major news breaks. Out of sight, out of mind.

7. What is the importance of covering Trump for an international audience?

Although The Guardian is based in London in terms of its international headquarters, The Guardian U.S. has come up in recent years as its own force. It's all under the same umbrella, but we try to target our reporting to both the U.S. and abroad. There are some stories that are quite clearly written for a U.S. audience, especially if you're covering the more day-to-day developments on Capitol Hill or some of the more incremental aspects of politics. I wouldn't say that those of us in Washington are primarily reporting to an international audience, but because of that international audience, we have to make sure the majority of our stories can be digested overseas and that they are operating from a 30,000-foot view of what is happening both at the White House and in Washington and that they provide insight into U.S. politics that does not get too lost in the weeds. That doesn't mean we don't also do stories on palace intrigue that peel back the curtain on the chaos. We also sometimes cover what might seem like exhaustively incremental stories because of how many stories you have each day in the Trump era. We still try, more so than some outlets, to distill the events for an audience that is not just global, but outside

D.C. In a way, a lot of the coverage that you see from some of the top American media outlets is very tailored to people inside the beltway. One thing The Guardian tries to do is write stories that could be read as easily in suburban Kentucky as they can in the U.K.

Victoria David, France 2

1. Why did you want to work as a correspondent in Washington?

I wanted to act as a witness of what was happening, of what I thought would be a unique moment in U.S. history, even more so once Trump was elected.

2. How many other journalists from your organization worked with you in Washington?

At France 2, there were two correspondents, two producers, two to three cameramen and a video editor. There were two interns.

3. What were your primary reporting duties?

I was in charge of the blog and of the channel's social media. I also worked as a producer for some stories, which included finding contacts to interview, and I researched story ideas to do. For instance, I read an article about immigrants looking for guardians for their kids in case they were deported. I suggested that we do a story about it, which a journalist ended up doing.

4. What did your home audience want to know about the Trump campaign? What issues were important to them? How did that affect your reporting?

I think that everything incredible or crazy that Trump was doing was of interest to the French audience. They were not used to seeing politics as a show like it normally is in the U.S. even without Trump. I think most French people saw Donald Trump as a joke, something completely surrealistic. Regarding the issues, I have trouble saying which ones were important. I would say that immigration, security, terrorism and, to a lesser extent, economic issues were important because they are issues that they could also relate to. They have a resonance in the French political sphere, compared to things like the health system that is completely different in the U.S.

5. What obstacles did you face in covering the Trump campaign, if any?

I think that my main problem was really knowing which issues the French audience wanted to know more about. Far from home, and knowing that an audience doesn't necessarily think only one thing, it was hard to grasp what I had to talk about. Also, I did have trouble explaining certain things that are already complicated to understand for an American, like health care reform, for example.

6. What are some practical ways in which you overcame or adapted to those obstacles in your reporting?

Regarding the issues, I read a lot of articles that were written by French journalists and correspondents and watched French TV programs to see what French journalists were reporting on. When it comes to making U.S. news understandable to French people, I tried to keep it simple, to really know what the most important things were in what I

wanted to say and to get rid of everything that was useless. Doing articles in the “Five questions to understand” format was, for example, a good way to overcome that obstacle.

7. Why do you think the administration denies some international news media access to rallies and press briefings?

I think that Trump knows what the international press says about him and how it makes fun of his mistakes and speeches. He really cannot stand criticism, so this is the only solution he has found. Also, he hates journalists and the press, and so do a lot of his supporters, and I don't think he wants the whole world to report on him.

8. In general, what effect will that have on the stories that enter the international news flow?

I assume that the international press is just using American broadcasters' images. So in the end, it is probably only going to feed the international press' defiance toward Trump.

9. What effect will that have on Trump's perception around the world?

Again, this is only supposition, but it may feed the negative feelings that people have toward Trump in the world. However, it may have the reverse effect in some cases, adding to Trump's theory that what the media covers isn't the truth.

10. What should be the response from news organizations when they are denied access to the administration?

I am convinced that it is very important that they make it clear to the audience that they were denied access. I would also understand the choice of news organizations that decided not to report on events that they were denied access to. That happened in France with Marine Le Pen to the team of a show that was called Le Petit Journal.

11. Did you collaborate with other foreign correspondents or foreign media in covering the Trump campaign?

Not at France 2. For my work at Crossworlds, I think I wrote one article in common with another correspondent, who was in Ohio.

12. What were the benefits or drawbacks of collaborating on stories with other correspondents?

It helped me know how they were seeing what they were covering – the campaign and the first months of the Trump administration – which were in many regards, unbelievable. It was good to be able to rely on their vision and feelings.

13. How did you use technology in your work?

I used it a lot because I was a community manager. I also used my phone to cover the rallies I went to, taking notes and pictures and recording interviews.

14. Did it make your work easier or more difficult, particularly reporting on the Trump campaign?

It made it a lot easier. It helped me when I was at the rallies, and I also used it to check information. I would use it to do some kind of fact checking on Trump and his administration and do research.

Weihua Chen, China Daily

1. How long have you been a correspondent in Washington?

I've been here since Jan. 2, 2003. I was in New York for four years before that. It's more than eight years in the U.S.

2. Do you go to the White House press briefings and what do you look for when you're there?

I basically watch the White House press conference live on TV every day through C-SPAN. China-U.S. relations are big. It's everywhere because they're the two largest economies.

3. What is the Foreign Press Center and what are the services they offer to foreign correspondents?

The Foreign Press Center is a State Department office handling the foreign media in Washington. I would say they're not as active as in the Obama years. Maybe it's because of the cut in State Department funding, or maybe they're short staffed as some reports suggest. In the Obama years, it was relatively active.

4. What are the struggles of covering the Trump administration?

Overall, I would say the Trump administration is never short of news. I would say, overall, I don't feel any hindrance covering the Trump administration. As foreign media, we don't have connections like the mainstream U.S. media, like The Washington Post and CNN that are well connected with the administration. We only have two reporters here. We try to do as much as we can, but still, you can imagine two people covering Washington keeps us busy all the time.

5. Were you denied credentials to Trump's rallies during the campaign?

I didn't go around the country with all the candidates, but I went to Bernie and Trump. No one knew at the time he was going to win. I write news stories, but I also happen to be a columnist, so I would pay more attention to Bernie's campaign because I thought it made more sense.

China is one of the few countries that had a lot of Trump supporters at the time. There was a poll in China of all the political candidates, and Trump got the highest support. People didn't like Hillary that much because they felt her hostility toward China as secretary of state. Bernie they didn't know very much about because he was relatively new to the Chinese. Same as Ted Cruz.

There was a lot of tension in China about the U.S. elections, as in previous elections. We covered that all the time. The campaign was full of drama, conflict and interesting things. There was a lot of interest in China trying to understand, partly because people feel more connected than ever with the United States.

6. With Trump supporters in China, how did that affect your reporting?

At the early stage of the campaign, I spoke to older international staff at Chinese television networks, telling everyone that they should not cover the Trump campaign so much. Cover more meaningful events. The U.S. media made the same mistake. They didn't cover more serious issues, like inequality. They covered the personal issues. Obviously, I made a big mistake because now he's the president. I don't think we gave disproportional reporting until the last few months when he started making more and more outrageous comments.

7. Would you say the Trump administration is friendly to foreign media?

I would say that's my observation, not my personal experience. I would say they are to some extent. If we recall Sean Spicer as the press secretary, he let foreign media ask questions so much more often than the Obama administration. The press briefings are dominated by U.S. media. He actually let local and foreign media ask questions. I think that's something that needs to change at the White House or State Department press briefings.

The AP has the monopoly. I think the AP has too much privilege in the briefing. Everybody else has to raise their hands, but their reporter can jump in any time before others. That, to me, is discrimination against the foreign press.

8. Would you say the briefing is a valuable use of your time?

Technology makes a real difference. You don't have to be there physically unless you have an urgent question you want to ask.

Even if you have a question, the press secretary just reads from the talking points, so you're not really getting your answers. She's repeating what she's said 20 times. But you still expect people in the White House or State Department to comment on certain issues because what they said weeks or months ago is not news anymore. I would expect what Trump said today, not what he said a few months ago or a few days ago. When we have two people, we can't afford to sit at the White House briefing every day. Ninety-nine percent of the content is irrelevant to us.

9. How do you monitor the president's Twitter account?

This morning, he tweeted that a trade war is good, and that America will win. I took a screenshot and posted to WeChat, so all my friends in China can see it. I added my own comment, and people could post their comments.

I follow his Twitter very closely because it's so exciting, both in a good and bad sense. It's always a surprising message, even if it's not related to China. It's never happened in history. You don't see any previous U.S. president doing that. Of course, there was no Twitter 10 years ago. You always think the government will speak through an official channel, but this is a different president. His Twitter produces so much news for us. A lot of manpower is spent interpreting his tweets and writing about them.

10. Is that a valuable use of your time, keeping up with Twitter?

I think it's useful. Some criticize his administration for not being transparent, but I would say, sometimes, they are actually. He responds so much on impulse, which I don't necessarily agree with, but he is saying something. Previous presidents would go to an adviser and then get back to you, but Trump will say it on the spot by impulse. I think it does create chaos in a sense for foreign countries because the messages conflict all the time. They can't figure out what he means. He used to tweet good things about President Xi of China, but then he stopped doing that a couple months ago. Then every message about China got nasty. One day he says he's our friend, and the next day it's like he's going to stab us in the back and the chest, too. I feel quite confused about his tweets and the messages from his mouth. It certainly keeps journalists busy.

11. How does the Foreign Press Center help foreign correspondents with their work?

They used to invite a State Department spokesperson to speak to the foreign press. They did more during the Obama administration than today. They organized more events for the press. I haven't noticed any events for a while. They organized press trips to the National Institute of Health to find out what's the latest research or to Quantico to find out what the Marines are doing. We even went to Chesapeake Bay to talk to the oyster farmers. Now, you don't see that. Those things are welcomed by the foreign press in Washington. I think they should do more. Those things are quite helpful. They just need to be more active. You see the contrast from a little more than a year ago.

12. What is the importance of covering Trump for a foreign audience?

China Daily is kind of an exception from other Chinese media because it's an English-language newspaper. Our readers are mostly non-Chinese. The purpose is for people who don't read Chinese but want to understand China. When I write, I'm not writing to typical Chinese. I'm writing to U.S. business executives working in China, diplomats, teachers, American students and foreigners in China, whether Japanese, Korean or Brazilian, who read English. Most of the time, my focus is on the tension between the White House, whether Obama or Trump, and China.

People wondered so much about Trump's hostile campaign rhetoric about China. Things went reasonably well to many Chinese, so people started to look at President Trump quite differently. They thought this real estate businessman could actually handle governing. As a businessman, you are not a politician. You are more realistic and pragmatic. Businessmen don't want to pursue a lose-lose game. That's turned out not to be so true these days with tariffs on aluminum and steel.

13. Have you found working with the administration to be organized or disorganized?

The press secretary position was vacant, and obviously, the Trump administration has been criticized for a lot of vacancies and a lot of spots not being filled. Someone should

take that job temporarily because it's irresponsible and chaotic for media. Who do we reach? I do feel that the Trump administration is understaffed sometimes. The State Department's funding has been cut, and Trump's fiscal budget for 2019 is going to cut the budget again. That is going to affect the Foreign Press Center and all the services that serve the correspondents based in Washington. That's not a good thing for us because we're not privileged to have key access to White House sources and key department officials. We need important channels to get closer to government officials, more briefings and more press visits that used to be organized by the Foreign Press Center.

14. Anything I missed you think I should know?

I feel quite comfortable covering Trump. I understand as foreign media that I'm not going to have privileged access to the White House and U.S. government. That's reasonable because we're not The New York Times or The Washington Post. It's the same thing in China. The big news organizations get the privileges. In that sense, I think the U.S. government is relatively open.

I feel a bit discriminated at the White House, and even State Department, press briefings because you're not supposed to sit in the first or second rows. Those are reserved. Why? It should be first come first served. It's something that could be improved. Overall, it's exciting covering Washington, even though I disagree with much of the politics here, especially regarding China. Washington is where good and bad news happens all the time. More than anywhere else.

Appendix B

Part I: Introduction

Washington is one of the premier destinations for foreign correspondents who travel to the United States to cover American politics and its far-reaching effects on governments around the world. As an aspiring international reporter, the Washington program would be an excellent place to hone my international reporting skills, learn from former foreign correspondents at an international news outlet and conduct research on how the correspondent's role has evolved among successive administrations.

The courses I have taken during my academic career have prepared me for a political reporting internship in Washington, D.C. As an undergraduate at the University of Arkansas, I double majored in journalism and international relations, which required many classes in history and political science. I specialized in European and Middle Eastern studies and have a deep understanding of those governments and their relationship with the United States. As the U.S. government continues to grapple with Russia, North Korea, and terrorism, the historical and political understanding I have of those regions will be an asset, and I can use that knowledge to write more contextual stories.

As a graduate student, I continued my education in international affairs, this time, focusing on international political journalism. Specifically, I have taken International News Media Systems with Randy Smith, International Journalism with Beverly Horvit, and Global Journalist with Jason McLure. Those classes have taught me much about how foreign news enters the domestic news flow and how the U.S. media portray other

countries and people groups in international coverage. Through those classes, I also had the opportunity to interview international journalists, which gave me a better understanding of the unique challenges they face while doing their jobs. As an intern in Washington, I hope to use the knowledge I have gained to write stories that avoid stereotypical representations and simplistic explanations of international issues.

In addition, I have five years of French courses, spanning from high school to the present. That skill will help me overcome language barriers and increase my access to non-English speaking journalists, whom I can interview for my project. In Washington, I hope my language skills will make me more marketable to foreign publications, such as Agence France Presse. When I graduate, I hope to use my French to work abroad in a French-speaking country for a French publication or an international news outlet based in the United States.

More importantly, the skills I have acquired through various reporting internships will help me be successful in Washington. Most recently, an internship with The Associated Press in Dallas has made me comfortable writing stories for a national and international audience. I regularly broadened the scope of local stories and looked for national trends, as I did with my piece about pop-up traffic signals across the country. That will be a valuable skill in the capital, where many of the country's national newspapers are located. I also learned the importance of posting accurate breaking news quickly. At the AP, I wrote breaking-news briefs followed by longer in-depth pieces. Again, this will be a valuable asset in Washington, where news that affects many people, nationally and internationally, can happen very quickly.

While I was primarily a text intern at the AP, I also have multimedia experience gained through various reporting internships. For example, my final project at the AP culminated in a text, photo, and video package about funding cuts to the University of North Texas Center for Human Identification. In addition to producing my own multimedia packages, I collaborated with text reporters to contribute visuals to their work. As an intern at Arkansas Online, the digital component of the state's leading newspaper, the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, I also have experience with breaking news and event coverage. I helped cover the 2016 primary elections and spent election night live tweeting from watch parties and contributing briefs that could be posted online immediately. I continued that work as a member of the community outreach team at the Columbia Missourian, where I experimented with new platforms, such as Snapchat and Facebook Live, to reach new audiences.

Finally, in addition to my reporting work, I also have experience producing. At Global Journalist, a weekly radio show about underreported international issues, I worked on a team to contact and pre-interview guests from around the world and determine who should be selected for the show. I contributed web features and social media content and sifted through various research articles, synthesizing the best ones in a research document that prepared the host for the show. Through such diverse experiences, I am confident I will be able to succeed in Washington, whether in a print, radio, or broadcast outlet. Those skills will also help me navigate and succeed in the evolving media landscape, especially internationally, as I begin my professional career.

International work has been the most valuable experience in my journalism career. I have completed international reporting trips in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and Cape

Town, South Africa. In Bolivia, I worked with a translator to report on a government policy that allowed children to live in prison with incarcerated parents. I told the story of a man who grew up in prison with his father to put a face on the policy and discuss its effects on children and families in a more personal way. This type of reporting will be beneficial in the capital because many audience members around the country may not be aware of how a policy will affect them or their neighbors. In South Africa, I reported on the decision to impose racial quotas on the country's national rugby team. Rugby is anything but a black-and-white issue in South Africa. While reporting, I had to make sure not to oversimplify the problem and present multiple sides of the argument to paint a complete picture. That skill will be important in Washington, where two-sided arguments between Republicans and Democrats often dominate news coverage.

Through those trips, I learned many skills that will transfer to my work in D.C. and help me succeed as an international journalist. I learned how to overcome language barriers and work with people who are different from me. I learned how to navigate new cities and overcome technology failures. And I learned how to report on sensitive topics that many people, including government officials, are hesitant to speak about on the record. Through this professional experience and my background in international relations, I have the skills necessary to be successful as an intern in Washington and to successfully complete the professional analysis portion of the project.

Part II: Professional Skills Component

During the program, I would like to work primarily as a text reporter at a national or international news outlet, such as Slate, Al Jazeera, or USA Today. An internship at such an organization would allow me to write domestic stories for international audiences

and learn from correspondents or former correspondents at the office. The relationships I would build while working as an intern at my place of employment might also help me achieve my goal of reporting internationally in the future.

Ideally, I would write text pieces about international news or U.S. foreign policy, which would allow me to produce international clips. I would like to work for an organization that allows me to do some reporting outside the office and gives me the opportunity to write people-centered policy stories that have more feature aspects than straight hard news. Depending on my place of employment, I could also contribute multimedia pieces to my own work and the work of other reporters. For example, I could make videos to embed in text pieces or teaser videos solely for social media. If I work at a broadcast or radio outlet, like Al Jazeera, I could help with behind-the-scenes work, such as writing scripts, finding sources, and creating research documents.

I will begin my internship in January 2018 and finish in late April of that year. I will work 30 hours a week, Monday through Thursday. I hope to produce at least one piece a week for a total of 14 clips by the end of the internship. Those clips will be included in the final project report to show my productivity. Project chair Fritz Cropp will directly supervise the project. He and my other committee members will be kept up to date on my progress through weekly emailed notes. I will also meet with Barbara Cochran, the Washington program supervisor, once a week for the seminar. That will be an ideal opportunity to ask questions and talk about my progress.

Part III: Analysis Component

Topic statement. Journalists around the world have long faced barriers to reporting through censorship, closures, legislation, intimidation, and imprisonment

(Parsons, Scott, and Landesberg, 2009). Even U.S. reporters have faced economic pressures and tightening budgets that have prompted industry leaders to look for new ways to pay for comprehensive reporting (Parsons, Scott, and Landesberg, 2009). Despite those challenges, the United States has a long history of press freedom, which is enshrined in the Constitution, and the country remains one of the safest in the world for journalists (Malsin, 2016). It is difficult to imagine a situation in which the U.S. government would systematically arrest and kill journalists (Malsin, 2016). Yet the election of President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly expressed hostility toward journalists, has left many reporters feeling targeted on a broad scale (Malsin, 2016). It is not just American journalists who are affected by Trump's war on the press.

Correspondents from foreign media are reeling from Trump's "America first" rhetoric and are routinely denied access to the administration (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016).

During the campaign, journalists from France, Germany, China, Colombia, and several other countries reported that they had been denied credentials to Trump's rallies (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). The freeze didn't end when the former businessman won the presidency. In February 2017, the White House barred The Guardian, the Daily Mail and the BBC from an informal press briefing (Siddiqui, 2017). While it is quite unlikely that the United States under Trump will devolve into an authoritarian environment akin to China or Turkey, it is troubling that international media do not have equal or consistent access (Malsin, 2016). However, foreign correspondents, especially those who have worked under authoritarian regimes, can perhaps offer some advice on how to thrive while covering the Trump administration under difficult conditions (Malsin, 2016). The context and risks may differ, but the lessons could be transferable (Malsin, 2016).

Nearing the one-year mark of Trump's tenure in office, there has been little research on this topic, and this project will help fill the gap. It is the purpose of this project to examine the current obstacles, particularly those posed by the Trump administration, challenging foreign correspondents in Washington, D.C. It also aims to give foreign correspondents a voice and provide the audience with a new point of view that it has not previously heard. It is the hope that the project's findings will provide practical solutions that will improve the content of international news and the profession.

RQ 1: How do foreign correspondents report on the Trump administration in Washington?

Hypothesis 1: Reporters use technology to overcome limited access and find alternative ways of reporting on the administration.

Hypothesis 2: Collaboration among foreign correspondents is increasing as a result of limited access.

Value of study. International reporters should care about the practical findings of this project because the Trump administration will be in office for another three years, and there is no guarantee that successive administrations will be more accommodating. Correspondents will need to learn how to adapt and thrive in their current situation. The analysis portion of the project will be useful for foreign correspondents who want to produce informative and engaging journalism for their home audience in a challenging and often stressful environment. It will add to the profession by providing examples of best practices and innovative methods that could spark discussion among members of the international press pool about ways to succeed, despite restrictive practices.

Theoretical framework. The theoretical frameworks used in the professional analysis will be gatekeeping and agenda setting. Gatekeeping refers to editors' capacity to select or reject content for publication from the daily avalanche of stories that are available from wire services and from within newsrooms (White, 1950). In a seminal gatekeeping study, researcher David White described a one-way process by which news passes through key positions, such as the White House or Congress, and then through gatekeepers, like reporters and editors, before ultimately reaching consumers for consumption (White, 1950). There are several other places in the news-production process where news must pass through gates. For instance, among journalists, news must pass through the reporter, editor, and copy editor before the final product is fit for publication (White, 1950).

The study concluded that an editor's decision to include or exclude news items is based on the gatekeeper's own set of experiences, attitudes, and expectations about what constitutes news (White, 1950). In other words, journalists control the gates through which content is released to the audience, and published content depends upon their news judgment. Although digital technologies, to some extent, have broken the linear process of communication by allowing audience members to play a greater role in producing news, news organizations still employ personnel who perform the traditional gatekeeping role (Bro and Wallberg, 2015). The theory remains an important and classic one among media scholars. What has changed, perhaps, are the values upon which selections and rejections are based (Bro and Wallberg, 2015).

The other theoretical framework used in the paper will be agenda setting. Agenda setting refers to the media's ability to direct the audience's attention to certain issues,

increasing the perceived importance of those issues through heavy reporting (McCombs and Shaw, 1972). As a result, the media can play an important role in building public consensus about important issues (McCombs and Shaw, 1972). While the original theory implied that only the media can set the public agenda, later research expanded the theory by focusing on how political actors — such as governments, political organizations, and activists groups — influence the media’s agenda through a process known as agenda building (Lee and Xu, 2017). Through agenda building, political actors attempt to use advertisements, press releases, and social media to gain favorable media coverage or gather public support for a certain issue (Lee and Xu, 2017).

Gatekeeping and agenda setting are relevant to the proposed research because both concern how certain topics and stories enter the news flow. The theories apply not only to journalists and the audience, but also to governments and the media. The government plays an important role in determining what stories journalists can report by providing or restricting access to information. It can also influence the perception of journalists and the public by continually emphasizing a particular issue.

The Trump administration’s decision to limit access to international media seems like an effort to control his image in the press and the way he is perceived around the world. It will be interesting to see how that affects the stories that enter the international news flow and the effect it has on public perception. In light of the reasons outlined above, the two frameworks are the best options through which to study the research question.

Literature review. Foreign correspondents are the best way to understand foreign affairs because, through their eyes, they paint a more comprehensive picture of the

interconnected world (Terzis, 2015). Yet their job is not easy. Foreign correspondents have to adapt global information into the local framework so it is comprehensible, appealing, and relevant to domestic audiences (Terzis, 2015). They have to speak the language of the country they cover to catch the “pulse” of society, and they have to develop a network of local contacts who will point them to stories, help them find sources, or serve as sources themselves (Terzis, 2015). They must do all this while facing discrimination (Terzis, 2015). As a foreign publication with low domestic readership, credentialing practices and access to officials are anything but certain, with permission often granted based on the perceived size and importance of the publication (Terzis, 2015). In summary, the newsgathering routines of correspondents and the stories they are able to produce are strongly determined by the opportunities and constraints of the information environment in which they work (Terzis, 2015).

Foreign news is covered in various ways, and there are several indicators that predict what stories will enter the international news flow. Some indicators are the unexpectedness of the event and the negativity of the news being covered (Galtung and Ruge, 1965). Leading up to the presidential election, Trump’s campaign was certainly unexpected and something the American public had never seen before. Trump’s frequent attacks on the media also ensured his coverage in the news. In addition, the fact that Trump’s campaign involved the future leader of the world’s most powerful government, which makes policy decisions that affect the globe, contributed to the story’s significant coverage in international news (Galtung and Ruge, 1965). Yet another factor is accessibility (Galtung and Ruge, 1965). Trump has restricted access to domestic and foreign media alike, and it remains to be seen how that has affected foreign reporting.

The journalists tasked with making sense of Trump for a global audience are facing restrictive credentialing practices that block foreign media from his rallies and press briefings (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). The ban has applied to media from all corners of the world, and it does not always match Trump's rhetoric. For example, despite the president's anti-Muslim comments, Al Jazeera — owned by the Qatari government, which follows Sharia law — reported that it rarely had problems receiving credentials to Trump's rallies during the campaign (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). In fact, Al Jazeera received credentials for Trump's Iowa caucus after foreign reporters from Western organizations had already been denied (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). However, it is not unprecedented to deny credentials to foreign media. Hillary Clinton barred a Daily Mail reporter who had covered her quite critically from attending campaign events in New Hampshire. She cited foreign ownership of the publication as the reason for the denial (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). Yet what is unusual is denying credentials to foreign media on a regular basis (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016).

Even more confusing is the fact that the ban has not been applied consistently to foreign media (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). Many foreign outlets with a large American audience, such as Reuters, regularly received credentials (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). In another example, foreign reporters who had been denied access to Trump's Iowa caucus were permitted to attend one of his fundraising events just weeks later (Gold and Schreckinger, 2016). And when Trump gave a foreign policy speech in April 2016, Russian journalists were denied credentials; but nearly a year later, Russian reporters were the only ones allowed to witness a meeting between Trump and Russian officials on a state visit.

The restrictions didn't end once Trump won the White House. His administration went on to impose more draconian rules, such as banning TV cameras during press briefings and cutting the length and frequency of sessions with reporters (Farhi, 2017). Domestic and foreign journalists alike have condemned Trump's restrictions on Twitter and through editorials, with some reporters even calling upon their peers to boycott the press briefings until the situation improves (Farhi, 2017). Yet the journalism industry is competitive, and persuading reporters to collaboratively walk out of the briefing room is unlikely, not to mention bad for business (Farhi, 2017). Doing so would likely only fuel Trump's attacks on the media (Farhi, 2017). However, there are signs that reporters are standing up to the administration through technology and collaboration.

National and international reporters are using a variety of digital tools, particularly data visualization and interactive graphics, to cover the Trump administration. Many journalists have used Twitter, the president's preferred method of communication, to collect data for graphics that explain the complexities of the president to the audience in a new and engaging way. For example, Washington Post reporters used Twitter data to estimate how much time Trump spent on social media and how many tweets he has posted (Rodrigues, 2017). The information was incorporated into a larger graphic that analyzed how the president spent his time. The list goes on. Politico used a blog to aggregate all its stories about Trump into one place, while ProPublica created an interactive database that allowed users to explore how closely their lawmakers' votes aligned with the administration's agenda (Rodrigues, 2017). Foreign media also used digital techniques to report on the administration's activities. For example, The Guardian created a timeline of Trump's first 100 days in office (Rodrigues, 2017). The timeline

included contextual figures, such as the number of tweets Trump posted during that time span, and provided detailed reports for all 100 days (Rodrigues, 2017). Through such techniques, news organizations can complement their reporting when it has becoming increasingly difficult to provide hard-hitting text stories because of limited access (Rodrigues, 2017).

While technology and social media have aided news organizations in covering the Trump administration, it has also allowed the president to bypass traditional media gatekeepers and speak directly to the electorate through Twitter in an effort to build his own agenda (Lee and Xu, 2017). Twitter can be a powerful agenda-setting and agenda-building tool (Lee and Xu, 2017). Not only can politicians use the platform to influence the public, they can influence the media's agenda through their Twitter activities and social media presence (Lee and Xu, 2017). In Trump's case, he was highly successful. Trump received an excessive amount of media attention for his unconventional campaign tweets, including a 3 a.m. outburst against a former Miss Universe contestant (Lee and Xu, 2017). While the majority of news coverage around Trump's Twitter strategy was negative, his tweets were able to counter the media's negative framing (Lee and Xu, 2017). Though media coverage may have exposed Trump's false Twitter claims, it did not succeed in turning a large portion of the electorate against him (Lee and Xu, 2017). The election results, therefore, speak to the power of Twitter and its ability to serve candidates in agenda setting without the media (Lee and Xu, 2017).

While there is disagreement in the journalism community about how to appropriately report on the president's tweets, some reporters are turning to collaboration as the best way to report on his unusual administration. Some researchers claim that the

drive to collaborate is the result of increasing attacks on the media (Graves and Konieczna, 2015). Collaboration is, in effect, a response to counter the growing trend of misinformation and to repair accusations of partiality (Graves and Konieczna, 2015). Reporters also use collaboration to rebuild the institution of journalism by providing strong public affairs reporting that the public wants and needs (Graves and Konieczna, 2015). One way of achieving that goal is through partnerships with organizations like the White House Correspondents Association and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. Such groups work closely with traditional media to ensure robust watchdog reporting of governments (Graves and Konieczna, 2015).

The success of the Panama Papers, a collaborative effort of nearly 400 journalists from around the world, showed news organizations the value of partnerships on investigative reporting (Fitzgibbon and Hudson, 2016). The investigation began with a data leak to a German daily newspaper, which turned the files over to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists. The organization then established a partnership with 100 media outlets to sift through the files (Fitzgibbon and Hudson, 2016). Alone, it would have taken a news outlet a decade to read the files; but together, journalists could share findings, help find sources, and share fact-checking responsibilities (Fitzgibbon and Hudson, 2016). There is now a growing likelihood that reporters will be happy to help on investigations. That spirit of collaboration could carry over into day-to-day reporting duties, such as sharing data and research, fact-checking claims, and dictating quotes to one another (Otto and Meyer, 2012).

Methods. Interviews will be used as the primary means of study for this project and were chosen over more impersonal methods, such as surveys and questionnaires, so

participants will have the opportunity to fully explain their answers about complex topics (Brennan, 2013). To facilitate natural and honest responses, the interviews will be conducted in person, if possible, or over the phone in an effort to build rapport and make respondents feel more comfortable (Brennan, 2013). Interviews are the best means of study for this project because the exploratory aspect of the method allows the researcher to investigate the deeper meanings within respondents' answers (Brennan, 2013).

The interviews will combine elements of semi-structured and unstructured interviews. All respondents will be asked a pre-established set of open-ended questions that will have been reviewed by a peer to make sure they are not directional or misleading. Questions will be organized into groups about certain issues with sub-questions used to flesh out particular details. In each group, the easiest inquiries will be listed first, followed by reflection questions that delve more deeply into the topics addressed. To avoid rigidity, the researcher will have the option of changing the order of the questions or asking unscripted questions depending upon the flow of the conversation. The researcher may also ask follow-up questions to clarify answers.

Sample interview questions are listed below:

Personal experience

1. How long have you been a foreign correspondent, and how long have you worked in Washington?
2. Why did you become a foreign correspondent?
3. Why did you want to work in Washington?

Covering Trump

4. What obstacles do you face in covering the Trump administration?

5. What are some practical ways in which you overcome or adapt to those obstacles in your reporting?
6. How does reporting on the Trump administration compare to other U.S. administrations that you've covered?
7. Have you been denied access to a campaign event or a press briefing?
8. Why do you think the administration denies some international news media access to rallies and press briefings?
9. What effect will that have on the stories that enter the international news flow?
10. What effect will that have on Trump's perception around the world?
11. What should be the response from news organizations when they are denied access to the administration?

Technology

12. What is technology, and how do you use it in your work?
13. How has technology affected your work routines in covering the administration?
14. Does it make your work easier or more difficult?

Collaboration

15. How many other journalists from your organization work with you in Washington?
16. How do you collaborate with other foreign correspondents in covering the Trump administration?

17. What are the benefits or drawbacks of collaborating on stories with other correspondents?

18. How is collaboration encouraged or discouraged by your organization?

Present and former foreign correspondents, defined as non-domestic staff or freelance journalists working for any media that produce news for audience members in another country, will be the primary respondents for this study. It is imperative that those who are interviewed have field experience because the goal of the project is to identify best practices when working abroad in Washington. Such respondents will be able to put the literature in context and expand upon it by providing real-life examples that can help other international reporters and improve the profession.

A diverse sample that includes men and women of varying ages and nationalities working for a range of media platforms will be collected. Age diversity is particularly important to illustrate how work routines among correspondents have changed over successive administrations. Diversity in other demographic areas is needed because the study is not meant to show how correspondents of only one nationality do their job. It is intended to present a diverse picture of how foreign correspondents, in general, approach the work of covering the Trump administration.

The International Press Association, which brings together foreign journalists working in the capital, will be reached in order to collect the names and contact information of its members. Foreign correspondents registered with the U.S. Department of State will also be contacted. They will be contacted first through email and then with a follow-up phone call asking them to participate in the project. For those who agree, an interview lasting no more than 60 minutes will be scheduled at a location of their choice.

Interviews will be conducted over a four-month period beginning in January 2018 and ending in April 2018.

To increase validity by soliciting a multitude of sources, the researcher will complete 10 interviews with the option to conduct more until the data becomes saturated with the same information. The researcher thinks 10 respondents is a large enough sample to ensure diversity of opinion while being small enough to complete thoroughly within the time frame of the project. However, the number of respondents can be fluid depending on the information power of the sample (Malterud, Siersma, and Guassora, 2016). Information power indicates that the more relevant information the sample holds, the fewer participants are needed (Malterud, Siersma, and Guassora, 2016). The researcher will proceed with fewer respondents if they provide strong dialogue that fully explores and analyzes the project's topics and themes.

Follow-up interviews may be scheduled at a later date to ensure that the researcher understood the initial responses. A second interview will also give participants the opportunity to contribute additional information and respond to conflicting views. In the event that a face-to-face meeting cannot be arranged because of time constraints or scheduling conflicts, a telephone interview will be scheduled. A telephone interview is preferred over a follow-up email, which will be used only as a last resort, because it provides the researcher with more authentic answers while giving her the opportunity to evaluate the tone of responses (Brennan, 2013).

All interviews will be recorded to allow for repeated listening and accurate quote collection. Anonymity will be granted if requested in an effort to ensure that participants are honest and forthcoming in their responses. This method will be accepted because the

participants included in the project could be working journalists who would not want to jeopardize their relationship with their editors, peers, or sources. A peer who is familiar with the study, but not directly involved, will help verify that the researcher did not misinterpret or misrepresent the meaning of participants' responses. Finally, the peer will make sure that the researcher's interpretations and conclusions are valid and free of bias.

Target publications. The analysis component of the project would appeal to several trade publications. One of the best options would be the *Global Journalist* magazine because it is dedicated solely to international affairs, and the analysis would appeal to its readership. Another good option would be the *Columbia Journalism Review* because it has also published several pieces on the state of foreign reporting. The proposed project would align with the *Columbia Journalism Review*'s mission of promoting ideas that make journalists smarter about their work. As a leading trade publication, it could widely disseminate the best practices outlined in the analysis.

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