

## LOGAN NONFICTION PROGRAM AT THE CAREY INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL GOOD

### Spring 2017 Fellows



**Simon Akam** ([www.simonakam.com](http://www.simonakam.com)) is a British writer, educated at Oxford University and on a Fulbright Scholarship to Columbia Journalism School. He worked at the New York Times in New York, for Reuters and the Economist in West Africa and for Newsweek in London. Following an auction involving five major London publishers, he signed a contract with William Heinemann, an imprint of Penguin Random House UK, to write his first book in 2015. “The Changing of the Guard” is a narrative nonfiction account of the impact of the Iraq and Afghan wars on the British Army. It uses the evolution of the archetypal British institution to tell a broader story of post-colonial Britain's attempt to negotiate its place in the world, the endurance of the British class system and shifting Anglo-American relations. Akam, who spent a year in the British Army in 2003-4 on a program called a Gap Year Commission, is working on the book project as a visiting fellow at the Changing Character of War program ([www.ccw.ox.ac.uk](http://www.ccw.ox.ac.uk)) at Oxford University.



**Erin Banco** is a Middle East journalist based in New York City. She began her career as a freelance journalist in Cairo where she covered human rights abuses in Egypt’s prisons after the 2011 revolution. She subsequently covered the Syrian civil war from Turkey, starting first in the refugee camps on the border and then traveling into Syria to write about the first battle of Aleppo.

After graduating from Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, Banco served as the Middle East correspondent for International Business Times. She traveled to Iraqi Kurdistan, Baghdad and southeastern Turkey to understand how terrorist groups used smuggling networks to transport oil to the international market.

Banco’s manuscript, which she aims to complete while at the Institute, is due to Columbia Global Reports in July 2017. “Pipe Dreams: The Squandering of Iraq’s Oil Wealth” will focus on how the region of Iraqi Kurdistan experienced the resource curse when officials manipulated oil contracts and accepted kickbacks from international oil companies. She will also look at how the

American government, and its invasion of Iraq, played a part in the region's economic downfall.



**Gian Cassini** is a documentary filmmaker based in Monterrey, Mexico, with experience working as a director and assistant director of full-length features, short films and television series.

Cassini is currently working on his full-length documentary film “Comala.” The film portrays his intimate personal quest in discovering the identity of his father. Largely absent from Cassini’s life growing up, his father worked as a hit man—a job that ultimately led to his murder in Baja California six years ago. The film’s narrative structure explores the sociopolitical elements that have come to engender the narco-violence in Mexico as told by a collection of scattered familial memories. Through these memories Cassini seeks to bind themes such as education, social values and gender inequalities in an effort to understand what can turn an individual into a killer.

During his stay, Gian Cassini will work exclusively on the editing of his documentary, with the expectation of enriching its narrative structure through the feedback of foreign advisors. The goal is to have a film of major impact for an international market.



**Cath Collins** is a social justice activist, human rights professional and sometime academic. Born in the north of England, she has spent almost two decades in Latin America, after being drawn to the region’s truth and justice struggles in the aftermath of dictatorships and Cold War counterinsurgency violence. She spent time in Brazil, Bolivia and Chile as a grassroots community worker, prison visitor and HIV educator, before the 1998 arrest of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet prompted her to focus on the question of justice for past atrocities. Her first book, “Post-Transitional Justice: Human Rights Prosecutions in Chile and El Salvador” tracked the ‘Pinochet Effect’ from Santiago to San Salvador, New York, Madrid and London.

Collins’ work at the Carey Institute will focus on her book about Latin America’s ‘justice entrepreneurs’: the brave, principled men and women who once faced down dictators and now provide an object lesson to the world in constancy, quiet commitment, and the transfer of moral imperatives to a new generation. Uniquely, this book will tell the inside story of justice through the eyes of its co-creators.



**Joanne Drayton** is an acclaimed New Zealand author whose output is globally recognized. Her book, “The Search for Anne Perry” was numbered in the top 10 nonfiction books on the 2015 New York Times bestseller list. It was a finalist in the prestigious New Zealand Book Awards in August 2013, it was the subject of a “60 Minutes” program, a cover story for the NZ Listener and has been optioned for a feature film.

Her critically acclaimed “Ngaio Marsh: Her Life in Crime” (2008) was a Christmas pick of the Independent newspaper when it was released in the UK in 2009. Her other biographies of expatriate painters include “Frances Hodgkins: A Private Viewing” (Random House, 2005); “Rhona Haszard: An Experimental Expatriate NZ Artist” (CUP, 2002); and “Edith Collier: Her Life and Work” (CUP, 1999). She has curated exhibitions and publishes in art history, theory and biography. In 2007, she was awarded a National Library Fellowship for a year to write a biography of Ngaio Marsh.

Drayton will use her residency at the Carey Institute to begin writing a book on Peter Hudson and David Halls, a gay couple who became celebrity chefs on television in New Zealand and the UK in the 1970s and 1980s. The book is due to Otago University Press by August 2017.



**Rasha Ellass** is a Syrian-American who has recently returned to the United States after covering the Middle East from inside Syria for over 10 years. Ellass covered the uprising-turned-civil war for several media outlets, including Thomson Reuters, LA Times, National Public Radio (NPR), The World (PRI / BBC Radio) and International Business Times (IBT.com), often covering the war from inside the country without a byline for security

reasons.

Prior to the Syria war, Ellass covered the Iraqi refugee crisis and Arab/Islamic affairs for various media where she covered Islamic Affairs. Her work includes columns and commentary on Islamic finance and local culture. Ellass has also covered the drug wars in South America as a producer for Al Jazeera English in Washington, D.C., before becoming a regular Syria Contributor for Al Jazeera America. She helped produce several independent documentaries including one about Arab / Muslim artists in the aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001.

During her stay, Ellass will complete a memoir which draws from her schoolgirl diaries as a child growing up in the Arab world, as well as from her reporter’s notebook as a journalist covering the Middle East. She recently launched the Voices Unheard podcast which draws on her

experience in the Middle East to bring an English speaking audience stories from the Arab and Muslim worlds.



**Sylvia A. Harvey** is an independent journalist and reporting fellow at the Nation Institute's Investigative Fund. Her focus is on the 2.7 million Children of Incarcerated Parents, COIP, a demographic rendered invisible by our criminal justice system and public policy. Harvey's award-winning cover story for The Nation, "What About Us?," reported on a disturbing pattern. Across the nation, state prison systems are gutting family visitation programs — programs that allow children to have extended quality time with their incarcerated parents. The shifts, she found, were due partly to budget pressures, partly to a punitive culture, and partly due to racist ideas about black sexuality. But in none of these debates did policy makers consider the impact of eliminating these overnight visits to the 2.7 million children in this country who have an incarcerated parent.

The Oakland native will come to Carey to write a long form investigative narrative piece, which focuses on caregivers of COIP. Harvey will argue that the refusal to take care of Children of Incarcerated Parents contributes to the fraying fabric of our society and is a perpetuation and iteration of New Jim Crow racism. Her written work has appeared in The Nation, Yes! Magazine, ELLE, Colorlines, the Feminist Wire, Narratively, the New York Post and AOL's Bedford- Stuyvesant Patch, where she served as the gentrification columnist. Harvey's commentary on race and the criminal justice system has been featured on WNYC, NPR, WBAI, HuffPost Live, and beyond. She holds a Bachelors of Arts in sociology from Columbia University and a Master of Science in journalism from Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism.



**May Jeong** has been reporting from Afghanistan since January 2013. She has written for American and British publications: The New York Times, Intercept, Guardian, London Review of Books, as well as ongoing assignments for Harper's, New York Times Magazine and others. Through 2015 and 2016, she conducted two major investigations, one on the bombing of the MSF hospital in Kunduz, and another on a drone strike that

killed an entire family in Kunar. Since 2013, she has covered various aspects of America's ongoing war in the country – the results of drone strikes, airstrikes, suicide attacks, as well as failures in border policy, empathy, and development theory. She was nominated for the Kurt Schork Award in 2016 for her work. Previously she worked for Reuters newswire, Canada's

Globe and Mail and the Daily Star in Beirut. She has also lived in India and Pakistan.

At Carey, she hopes to write the definitive take on the war in Afghanistan through the experience of Helmand province, where the civil war between the US-backed Afghan government forces and the Taliban insurgents has been the deadliest. She plans to tell the story of the war through one division stationed in a check post in the Helmand district — the last one belonging to government forces — and the five men who have fought for its control. She also hopes to develop a project appropriate for the Trumpian era.



**Azmat Khan** is an award-winning investigative journalist and a Future of War Fellow at New America. At the Carey Institute, she intends to write several chapters of a definitive investigation into America’s counterterrorism detention past and present, drawing from unprecedented ground reporting, exclusive interviews, exhaustive data collection, and powerful narrative storytelling.

Khan’s reporting for the PBS series FRONTLINE, Al Jazeera America, and BuzzFeed’s Investigative Unit has been honored with the Deadline Club Award for Independent Digital Reporting; the Daniel Pearl Award for Outstanding Reporting on South Asia; a Livingston Award finalist in International Reporting; an Emmy nomination in New Approaches to Documentary Film, and other honors. Her most recent investigation, “Ghost Schools,” shattered years of U.S. claims about its education efforts in Afghanistan and resulted in impact from Washington to Kabul. After publication, Sen. Bob Casey of Pennsylvania wrote USAID officials to say he was “particularly disturbed” by the findings, and asked the agency for detailed monitoring and evaluation plans. The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction cited the report in its semiannual report to Congress. And in Afghanistan, President Ashraf Ghani appointed a nine-member commission to investigate corruption in the Ministry of Education. Khan is represented by the Ross Yoon Literary Agency.



**Taran N. Khan** is a journalist and non-fiction writer based in Mumbai. She studied mass communication in Delhi and holds a Masters in development studies from the University of London. Her work has appeared internationally in Guernica, Al Jazeera, Berfrois, Himal Southasian, Gulf News and Dagsavisen, as well as in leading publications in India like The Caravan (India's leading narrative journalism magazine), Open magazine, The Hindu and Scroll.in.

Beginning in 2006, Khan traveled to Afghanistan where she worked with filmmakers and media producers over several visits ranging from a few weeks to several months. Over the years, she consistently built a body of writing from Kabul that creates a nuanced portrait of the city. She has also created platforms for screening films by Afghan directors and has curated selections of such work for film festivals in India and internationally.

At the Carey Institute for Global Good, Khan will develop her manuscript on the cultural life of Kabul. Each of the chapters is an expedition into a different aspect of the city, told from the perspective of a woman walking through the city. She will also be revising and editing her chapters on the enterprise of making films and manufacturing dreams in a country where cinema halls and people's imaginations have been damaged, and about love and marriage in Kabul.



**Rafil Kroll-Zaidi** is a freelance writer and a contributing editor at *Harper's Magazine*, where he was formerly managing editor.

Rafil's current project is the story of a single federal criminal prosecution and its defendant: a former oncologist who ran a charity that violated the Iraq embargo during the sanctions era and who was suspected of terrorist financing. From investigation to trial to post-conviction appeals, the research examines at every stage how the national-security and criminal-justice apparatuses functioned for this defendant and how, in turn, they function more broadly.



**Lawrence Lanahan** will use the Logan Nonfiction Program to finish writing a book entitled "The Lines Between Us: Baltimore and the Long Road to Racial Equality in America" (New Press, 2018). The book chronicles the Baltimore region's struggle to dismantle racial inequality and housing segregation in the five decades since the Fair Housing Act.

One "through line" in the book that became particularly timely is the organized resistance that arises when policymakers propose expanding subsidized housing to white suburbs and exurbs. The book soberly appraises the strength of the structural forces dividing Americans, but it also offers hope by showing how policymakers and everyday citizens are breaking down the lines between us.

Lanahan's reporting on race and class in Baltimore began in 2008 with a widely-cited Columbia Journalism Review cover story about *The Wire*'s lessons for reporting on urban inequality. His year-long multimedia series about regional inequality in Baltimore, WYPR's "The Lines

Between Us," won a 2014 Alfred I. duPont Award — the broadcast equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize. Since then, he has written for Al Jazeera America, Colorlines, Columbia Journalism Review and Slate.



**Katherine Reynolds Lewis** is an award-winning independent journalist based in the Washington D.C. area who covers child welfare, social justice and mental health. She is completing a book for PublicAffairs that exposes how the prevailing methods for disciplining children undermine their self-regulation. Her book tells the stories of innovative educators and psychologists who are rebuilding kids' self-control, diverting the school-to-prison pipeline and changing the trajectory of young lives.

The book grows out of her article for Mother Jones magazine about a non-punitive discipline model that eliminated the need for restraints in locked child psychiatric wards; cut recidivism and injuries in half in juvenile justice facilities; and in public schools, reduced discipline referrals and aggression by up to 80 percent. Within days of appearing on MotherJones.com, it became the site's most-read story ever, with more than 4 million views to date.

Lewis' work has appeared in TheAtlantic.com, Fortune, Mother Jones, The New York Times, Slate, USA Today's magazines, and the Washington Post Magazine, among others. She holds a degree from Harvard College. Lewis's book is scheduled to be published in PublicAffairs in Spring 2018.



**Raphael Minder** has worked as a full-time journalist for 23 years, starting in his native Switzerland for Bloomberg News, then spending ten years on staff for the Financial Times and reporting from Madrid since 2010 as the Spain and Portugal correspondent of the New York Times international edition.

Minder was commissioned earlier this year by a small British publisher to write his first book on Catalonia and its secessionist movement, a subject he reported on extensively for the New York Times when separatist parties won the Catalan regional elections in 2012.

Minder is planning to use the time at the Logan Nonfiction Program to complete his manuscript.



**Michael Scott Moore** has worked as a journalist in Europe since 2005, when he moved to Berlin from the United States. From 2005-2012 he served as a staff and freelance editor for Spiegel Online, writing news and features. He held a Fulbright fellowship for young journalists in 2006-07.

From 2009-2012 he wrote a regular column for Pacific Standard magazine called “European Dispatch” that evoked different policy approaches in Europe and the United States to problems including health care and clean energy. In 2010 he published a nonfiction book called “Sweetness and Blood: How Surfing Spread from Hawaii and California to the Rest of the World, With Some Unexpected Results.” *The Economist* rated his book as a best book of 2010.

In 2012 he covered the trial of ten Somali pirates in Hamburg. He traveled to Somalia, with filmmaker Ashwin Raman. Pirates kidnapped Moore and held him in Somalia for two and a half years. At the Carey Institute, he hopes to complete edits to a memoir about his captivity, which is due out from Harper in March 2018.



**Irene Chidinma Nwoye** has worked for the past five years as a writer and journalist across two continents. She began her journalism career covering crime, politics, arts and culture, and the Boko Haram insurgency in Nigeria’s capital, Abuja, as a metro reporter for The Sun, one of Nigeria’s highest-circulating dailies. Her story on two survivors of Boko Haram’s first onslaught on the ancient city of Kano made the cover of the paper in

June 2012. She came to the U.S. in 2013 to attend Columbia University’s Graduate School of Journalism as a Pulitzer African Fellow.

At the Carey Institute, Nwoye will write a longform article on domestic violence within the Nigerian diaspora through the narrative of a murder-suicide in Baltimore in early 2016 that examines issues of migration, love, greed and ambition.



**Kenneth R. Rosen** joined the staff of The New York Times in 2014.

His writing and reportage have appeared in The Times, The Atlantic, New York Magazine, Tin House, The Rumpus, Pacific Standard, and Outside Magazine, among others. His Big Roundtable essay “Notes From My Suicide” was nominated for a National Magazine Award (2016) and a

Pushcart Prize (2016). His essays have been nominated for inclusion in the Best American

Essays, the Best American Travel Writing, and the Best American Science and Nature Writing anthologies. He was part of the Times team awarded a Silurians Medallion Award (2015) for its reporting on the shooting death of two NYPD officers. He's received an SRPI award for feature writing (2013), an SCJ Mark of Excellence Award (2012), and three Columbia Scholastic Press Association Gold Circle Awards (2012, 2011). He graduated with a B.F.A. in writing from the Savannah College of Art and Design, and studied creative nonfiction in the M.F.A. program at Columbia University.

Rosen will come to Carey to complete a reported memoir (tentatively titled "As I Was"), a bildungsroman centered around his adolescence spent in at-risk youth treatment facilities and the macabre path into adulthood that followed. He is represented by Christy Fletcher of Fletcher & Company.



**Saumya Roy** is working on a book project documenting the lives of a community of ragpickers in Mumbai, which has the largest garbage mountain in the world; no composting has been done here for the last 117 years. Raging fires on the mountain over the last year and a court order has forced the Mumbai municipality to look at ways of closing this mountain.

The book will be a narrative account of the lives of these rag pickers, the mountain that sustains them and the municipality and city that allowed it to grow.

Saumya has written for Outlook magazine, wsj.com, Forbes India magazine, Mint newspaper and Bloomberg news. She has a Master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University and has won several awards for her writing. She set up Vandana Foundation, a nonprofit, to support livelihoods of women micro entrepreneurs in Mumbai and rural India. This is how she first met the rag pickers from Mumbai's garbage mountain. She has chronicled their quest to build a decent life for themselves over the last five years.

Through this book Saumya hopes to chronicle the afterlife of trash and the dark lives it sustains. There are similar garbage mountains in many large cities including Beirut, Manila, Sao Paulo, Delhi, Kolkata and Shanghai, apart from the waste that clogs our rivers, oceans, streets and farms. She hopes this book will provoke new thinking and discussion on the legacy of our consumption and encourage people to think about how they consume and how they can do so more consciously.



**Paul Wood** is a BBC foreign correspondent who reported on Syria over four years of the civil war there. He was smuggled over the border many times to cover the armed uprising, winning two Emmys as well as the US Radio and TV Correspondents' Association award for foreign reporting, twice.

He had a digital record running for almost every conversation inside Syria — not just for the formal interviews. The transcripts are the basis for his book. It is a record of how the uprising failed, starved of support from outside but also weakened by the rebel commanders' opportunism and greed. It is a story not just about Syria but about the corruption of war and the peculiar evil of civil war.