



“The Challenge of Justice in the Americas”

A SYMPOSIUM AND WORKSHOP FOR MEXICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN JOURNALISTS

Fellows Bios

Alonso Aguilar

Alonso Aguilar is a broadcast reporter for *Noticieros Televisa* in Mexico DF. He is looking into the case of a conviction of a women arrested on a federal charge in San Luis Potosí for possession of counterfeit money. She is serving a sentence of six years in Islas Marias prison, and has been the focus of protests from the Mexican college of lawyers among others on the grounds of unequal justice.

Claudia Beltrán

Claudia Beltrán is a veteran police reporter in Culiacan, Mexico, where she has worked as a correspondent for *Noroeste* for the past 14 years. Since 2008, she has been covering the rise in drug violence in her area. She is investigating the impact of Mexico’s penal reforms in the state of Sinaloa.

Sibely Cañedo

Sibely Cañedo is a correspondent for *Noroeste* in Mazatlan, Mexico. Her project, “Violent Exodus,” will explore the mass displacement of residents of the city of Choix triggered by the explosion of violence between criminal cartels.

José Carreño Figueras

José Carreño Figueras is a specialist in legal reporting for *Excelsior* in Mexico, DF, where he also serves as Foreign News Editor. He is particularly interested in analyzing the justice systems of Mexico and the US, and the challenge of rule of law in his country. Earlier in his career José served as Washington correspondent for several Mexican media outlets, including the wire service, *Notimex*.

César Castro Fagoaga

César Castro Fagoaga is crime and justice editor of *La Prensa Gráfica*, in El Salvador. A journalist since 2001, he has served as an investigative reporter for *La Prensa Gráfica's* investigative magazine *Enfoques*, as well as chief editor of *El Faro*, one of his country's most innovative digital news sites. He was part of the founding team of *Séptimo Sentido* magazine, one of the first publications in Central America focused on narrative journalism. His team of reporters is currently investigating the formation of one of the most important *clicas*, within the Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13): the *Teclas Locos Salvatruchos*, which was responsible for the killings of eight young students over the past two years.

David Delgado

David Delgado has covered judicial issues for *La Nación*, Costa Rica's largest newspaper since 2010. He has explored drug trafficking, the crisis in Costa Rica's prison system, and the underfunded infrastructure of the country's judiciary. His project will explore the impact of sentencing reforms enacted by the national legislature which increased maximum prison sentences from 25 to 50 years. Although Costa Rica's constitution prohibits life imprisonment, scores of prisoners in fact, as effectively spending their entire adult lives in jail as a result. David is interested in how the US prison system deals with its aging inmate population.

Tania Fernandez

Tania Fernandez is weekend editor of *La Prensa* in Panama, where she has worked as a journalist and copy editor since 1997. Before her present appointment, she spent three years as the paper's "Defender of the Reader" (ombudsman). Tania was appointed Weekend Editor at *La Prensa* in 2012.

Javier Garza

Javier Garza has been editorial director of *El Siglo de Torreón* for the past seven years, where he has overseen coverage of a wave of violence related to organized crime in the region, while developing safety protocols for his staff in the face of armed attacks and kidnappings against newspaper personnel. He worked as an editor and reporter at the newspaper *Reforma* in Mexico, Washington correspondent for *Grupo Monitor*, and as Editor of *Rumbo de Austin*, a Spanish-language newspaper. He serves as an adviser on Newsroom Safety at the World Association of Newspapers (WAN-IFRA) and has lectured on coverage of organized crime and violence against the media in the universities of Texas, California and Georgia, and organizations such as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Interamerican Press.

Association, the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Knight Center for Journalism in the Americas and Investigative Reporters and Editors. He received a Master's degree in Journalism from the University of Texas at Austin.

Daniela Guazo

Daniela Guazo is coordinator of databases for Fundación MEPI, an independent investigative journalism project that specializes in binational and regional investigations. It also works with university journalism students and young professionals. A young journalist based in México City. Daniela has a Bachelor's degree in Communications from the Universidad Iberoamericana in Mexico City and since 2010 has specialized in data journalism. At MEPI, she has been in charge of databases covering a variety of different topics, including security and criminal justice in Mexico. She worked as an assistant editorial at the newspaper *El Universal* and the magazine *Gatopardo*. She has also been a contributor in the magazine *Expansión*.

Marco Lara Klahr

Marco Lara Klahr is one of Mexico's most renowned journalists. A graduate of UNAM, he has been a criminal justice reporter and editor for 34 years. He is currently host of the TV program, *El Observador*, and writes the *Edad Medi@tica* blog. Among his many accomplishments, he is one of the founders of the Mexican School for Writers; a member of the team that produced the *Worlds of Journalism Study*; and is also currently director of the *Media and Information Access* program at the Institute for Penal Justice. He was a member of the advisory board of *El Universal* and directed its investigative team. The author of many books and manuals, he has written on organized crime, penal institutions, and produced instruction guides for journalists covering the criminal justice system in Mexico. He worked with Open Society in 2004 to develop an *Innocence Project* for Mexico. He is currently preparing an analysis of the *Maras* gang

phenomenon in Central America for the Fundación Heinrich Böll and the digital newspaper *El Faro* of El Salvador.

Julie Lopez Booth

Julie Lopez Booth is a freelance journalist who specializes in reporting on migration, judicial reform and gangs. She is a regular contributor to *Plaza Pública*, a Guatemala-based digital news site, where she has focused on the changing trends in drug trafficking (routes, heads of structures, etc.), and has done research on arms trafficking, smuggling routes and some of the corrupt structures linked to the trafficking groups, including the development of the Zetas in Guatemala. In addition to writing for Plaza, she writes a weekly column for the *Impremedia* newspapers in the US, concentrating on security issues in Central America's Northern Triangle. A graduate of Florida International University, she holds a Masters from the University of Maryland and from Kent University at Canterbury in England.

Érika Martínez Prado

Érika Martínez Prado is a prizewinning reporter and photographer who covers security issues and violence against women for *Norte*, published in the city of Juarez. She took a six-month leave from the newspaper in 2006 to work as an administrative supervisor for the Attorney General's office of the State of Chihuahua, where she handled press relations. A graduate of the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua, she was a two-time winner (2011, 2013) of the Silver Column prize for News Reporting awarded by the Juárez Journalists Association, and won the José Vasconcelos journalism state prize in 2013. She plans to investigate the unsolved "disappearances" which have turned the Juarez Valley into a 'clandestine cemetery' for women over the past decade, as well as the growing phenomenon of armed carjacking in the city.

Ignacio Rodríguez Reyna

Ignacio Rodríguez Reyna is editor of the Mexican magazine *Emeequis*. His 25-year career as a journalist includes serving as a founding member of the investigative team of *El Financiero*; editor of special projects for *Reforma*; editor in chief of *Milenio* magazine; and co-editor of *El Universal*. Under his leadership, *Emeequis* has won the King of Spain National Journalism Prize in 2011 and 2012, and Mexico's National Journalism Awards for seven consecutive years (2006-2012, among many other prizes). The magazine regularly covers justice-related issues, including organized crime, the judicial system and youth gangs.

Esteban Roman

Esteban Roman is editorial page editor and investigative reporter of *El Universal* in Mexico DF, and also serves as a freelancer for Univision. His reporting has concentrated on the failures and contradictions of the Mexican justice system, and he is currently investing how “incarcerating innocent people has become a business for cops and bureaucrats.”

Carlos Salinas Maldonado

Carlos Salinas Maldonado is editor of *Confidencial*, an online news site in Nicaragua which specializes in investigative reporting. A videographer and blogger, he also works as a correspondent for El Pais in Spain. His reporting on *Los olvidados del Casita* (2007) was among the finalists for the New Journalism Prize awarded by the Fundación Gabriel García Márquez. Before joining *Confidencial*, he was Economics Editor of *El Diario*, of Nicaragua.

José Rubén Zamora

José Rubén Zamora Marroquín is the founder and former editor in chief of the independent Guatemalan daily newspaper *Siglo Veintiuno* (21st Century), which was known under his editorship for its exposés of corruption, drug trafficking and human rights violations. Honored as a “World Press Hero” by the International Press Institute (IPI) in 2000, Zamora and his staff were the targets of harassment, death threats and physical attacks because of their investigative reporting on government corruption, the drug trade human rights violations by the army, national security and guerrilla activity. The paper also started a campaign for tax and judicial reforms and against the privileges of the establishment. In 1996, he launched a new daily, *el Periódico*, which has survived attempts by the government of President Alvaro Arzú to drive the paper into bankruptcy by depriving it of official advertising. Acquired in 1997 by the publishing house that owns *Prensa Libre*, Guatemala’s largest newspaper, *el Periódico* has been able to maintain its independence while continuing its critical coverage. He began his career in journalism at the age of 17 as a reporter for the family newspaper, *La Hora*. In 2014, he was nominated by IPI’s UNESCO World Freedom of the Press Award.