Christine Mungai is the Nairobi-based editor of Africapedia, a web publication that features data on key trends and major issues in the news in Africa. Her journalism career began in 2000 at The East African newspaper, where she reported on politics, security, business, culture and the arts. In 2014, she joined the Mail & Guardian Africa, where she reported from a pan-African perspective with a heavy focus on data-driven reporting. She is studying the relationship between torture, silence and repression and how that affects a country’s political imagination and media reporting.

Nikos Nwosu Faison is a Boston-based news reporter and producer for WCVB-TV’s “Chronicle” program. His shows focus on issues affecting minorities and millennials, from its expectancy disparities among racial groups to the student debt crisis. Nwosu also teaches digital journalism at Emerson College. He previously worked as a multimedia journalist at WTMH-TV in Flint, Michigan, and as an anchor/reporter at WPRI-TV and WNAC-TV in Providence, Rhode Island. He is studying how broadcast news stations can utilize social media video as a storytelling and revenue tool and how journalists can use social media to engage diverse audiences.

João Pina is a Portuguese photographer who has worked in Latin America, Afghanistan, Libya, Egypt, Ivory Coast and Mozambique. He is a regular contributor to The New Yorker, The New York Times, The Washington Post, El Mundo and Stern. He is one of the two reporters first contacted by the anonymous source who leaked the Panama Papers. He is studying archival photography and the way its juxtaposition with current images can increase storytelling impact and outreach.

Maria Ramirez is a Spanish reporter and entrepreneur who works in New York and Madrid. She writes about U.S. politics for Univision and co-founded Politibot, a chatbot that delivers messages about political developments in Spain, the rest of Europe and the United States. She previously worked as a correspondent for the Spanish daily El Mundo, and was part of the team of the startup El Español. Ramirez is the co-author of two books about U.S. politics. She is studying how to develop personalized tools to reach an audience skeptical about media in the age of populism and fake news.

Mat Skene is the executive producer of Al Jazeera’s award-winning current affairs program “Fault Lines.” Under his management, the show has covered a range of topics, including Haiti’s cholera epidemic, human trafficking on U.S. military bases and the fallout of President Trump’s proposed travel ban. A U.K. citizen, he has been based in Washington, D.C., since 2008. Before that, he worked in Malaysia for Al Jazeera’s current affairs program “101 East.” He is studying how the conventions of Western television media have led to a dominant form of storytelling in journalism and will explore new alternatives.

Bonny Symons-Brown joined the Australian Broadcasting Corporation in 2015. She has worked in radio and TV news and was most recently the supervising producer of “The Drum,” a political talk show providing analysis of the day’s biggest stories. Previously Symons-Brown was based in Jakarta and anchored a daily news program on Indonesian television. Her career started in the Australian parliamentary press gallery for the AAP where she covered the interaction of Islam, democracy and human rights, drawing comparisons between Indonesia and the rest of the Muslim world.

Frederik Obermaier is an investigative reporter for the Munich-based Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany’s largest daily. He is one of the two reporters first contacted by the anonymous source who leaked the Panama Papers, the leaked documents that prompted a global investigation involving hundreds of journalists. That reporting earned a Pulitzer Prize. Obermaier is also the author of two books: “Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War” and “Is This Your First War? Travels Through the Post-9/11 Islamic World.” Obermaier has a Ph.D. in modern history. He is studying the media environment in the contested political spaces of Eastern Europe and the Middle East, how Russia and Western nations try to shape accepted narratives, and democratizing opportunities presented by new technologies and media platforms.

Michael Petrou is a Canadian journalist who writes for OpenCanada, the National Post, Politics, CBC and The Walrus. He has reported from across Europe, the Middle East and Africa. Petrou is the author of two books: “Renegades: Canadians in the Spanish Civil War” and “Is This Your First War? Travels Through the Post-9/11 Islamic World.” Petrou has a Ph.D. in modern history. He is studying the media environment in the contested political spaces of Eastern Europe and the Middle East, how Russia and Western nations try to shape accepted narratives, and democratizing opportunities presented by new technologies and media platforms.

Emily Rueb is a reporter for The New York Times, writes and produces New York X, a multimedia column explaining infrastructure. At the Times, she pioneered new approaches to storytelling for the breaking news blog, City Room, where she covered Hurricane Sandy and major elections, and created a niche writing about avian life. She also edited Metropolis Diary. Rueb has contributed to the Financial Times, BBC Scotland, Time Out Paris and Cleveland Magazine. She is studying the evolution of public works in the United States and understanding how infrastructure investment will impact cities and citizens.

Shalini Singh is a New Delhi-based features reporter. She has worked for the Indian newsmagazine The Week and, prior to that, reported for the Hindustan Times. She also works as a fellow at the New Delhi-based Centre for Science and Environment and has reported widely on environmental issues. Singh is a founding member of the Countermedia Trust and a regular contributor to the People’s Archive of Rural India. At Harvard, she is working to expand this multimedia digital repository of information about the lives, languages and cultures of the 833 million people in India’s countryside who are largely ignored by the mainstream media.

Lauren N. Williams is the features editor for Essence. She assigns and edits articles, profiles and special reports on topics including reproductive rights, gun violence, politics, public health and social justice. She also manages Essence’s coverage of President Trump’s proposed travel ban. A U.K. citizen, she has been based in Washington, D.C., since 2008. Before that, she worked in Malaysia for Al Jazeera’s current affairs program “101 East.” She is studying how the conventions of Western television media have led to a dominant form of storytelling in journalism and will explore new alternatives.

Edward Wong is an international correspondent for The New York Times who served as Al Jazeera’s bureau chief and China correspondent from 2008 to 2016. He has reported extensively in Central Asia, North Korea and Myanmar. He also covered the Iraq War from 2003 to 2007 as a Baghdad-based correspondent. He joined the Times in 1999 and reported for the business, metro and sports desks before going overseas. Wong has taught at Princeton University as a Fermi Professor of Journalism. He is studying the rise and fall of modern empires, their strategies for shaping the world and the consequences of their decline.
As we welcome our 83rd class of fellows, the mission of the Nieman Foundation for Journalism has rarely been more urgent. Our benefactor, Agnes Wahl Nieman, endowed this program to "promote and elevate the standards of journalism and educate persons deemed specially qualified for journalism." With simple and elegant intent, so began the distinguished fellowship that since 1938 has invited some of the world’s most accomplished and promising journalists for a year of Harvard study. Our class of 24 fellows—half from the U.S. and half from abroad—will undertake work designed to enhance their expertise and return them to journalism better prepared to understand and interpret a complex world. In addition to their academic studies at Harvard, the fellows are actively engaged in Nieman Foundation master classes, seminars and conferences that strengthen their ability to lead, create and innovate during a challenging time in journalism’s history.

On campus, the fellows also may serve as resources through a variety of collaborations. Recent fellows have co-authored papers with faculty, led seminars, given classroom lectures and served on panels discussing the whys and hows of sexual violence as more victims come forward. They have offered legal advice in confidential legal testimonies in Catholic priests and actor Bill Cosby. They have covered legal proceedings in the sexual assault trials of Catholic priests and actor Bill Cosby. They have authored reports on the impact of air pollution on human health. Now they are covering the impact of air pollution on fragile ecosystems. They also have covered topics ranging from the upheavals that come with house parties to victory speeches.