



ONO newsletter August 2024

A word from the board

Dear colleagues,

I hope that you managed to take a good break in the last month or so because the news did not as wars in Gaza and Ukraine became ever more brutal, politics more polarised and the run of elections just kept on going. But at least the Paris Olympics gave some respite from the gloom. As you will see, we at ONO have used the time to finalise the speakers for the Shoptalk on September 10 and make a decisive move to upgrade the website. In addition, we are happy to welcome yet another new member, **Lyndsey Christ**, who is responsible for news standards and practices at Spectrum News in the US – we hope to have a bit more about her in next month's newsletter.

Finally, we have members' contributions and stories from around the world that reflect the issues of journalism in 2024.

Margo Smit, president

Jack Nagler, vice-president

Elisabeth Ribbans, treasurer

Chris Elliott, executive director



Shoptalk: Speakers fixed

We can now confirm our speakers for the Shoptalk on September 10, which will look at the ways in which colleagues deal with the coverage of populist politicians.

In addition to **Bert Lauwers**, VRT News ombudsman, and **Ruud Hendrickx**, VRT adviser for programme ethics and professional integrity, the other speaker will be **Adriana Gomez Licón (left)**, currently covering Donald Trump's campaign trail for the Associated Press.

In Europe, the US and all around the world the coverage of populist politicians is a dilemma for journalists covering the beat. What's best practice for journalists? Our three speakers will examine the questions and we will hear from other colleagues about the way they deal with this increasingly difficult issue at 12 noon UTC on September 10. A reminder of the zoom invite to come.

New technology

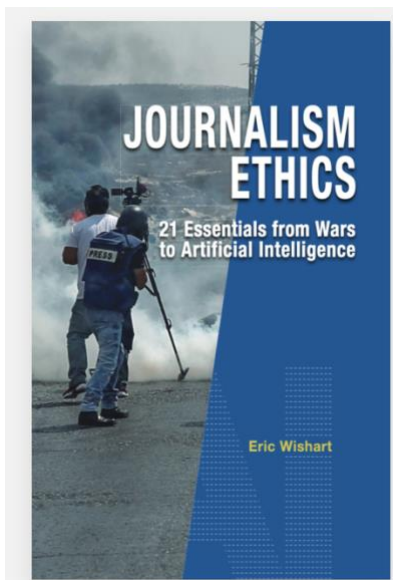
The board has decided to take up **Jeff Brown's** offer of working pro bono to update and clean up the ONO website, host it and offer 24/7 support. The move has already saved ONO \$500 as we were just about to renew the contract with Siteground, the company that currently hosts the site. The decision to work with **Jeff** was made after a full and frank zoom call set up by **Pierre** on August 5, which explored the issues involved in the move. On the call were **Jeff, Pierre, Jack Nagler**, ONO VP, and **Chris Elliott**, executive director.

As some of you may remember, ONO decided to quit the Fourth Estate site, which is part of **Jeff's** company, Honeytree Technologies, based in Florida, in 2019. However, the board has agreed that all outstanding matters have been resolved.

Migration has already begun, and this may result in some disruption with links not working so well and articles being in unexpected places. There will be further work to scope out what more needs to be done. **Jeff** says it will go on his company's list of work and could happen within 30 days. He agreed to expedite the move to avoid ONO having to pay the cost of the Siteground contract. The work includes the removal of several redundant plugins and an upgrade, not least because **Jeff** believes there may be security issues due to the outdated plugins.

His company currently hosts around 1,000 companies and organisations, 80% in the US. He said many of them were connected to journalists or journalists' organisations. Chris asked him directly whether he had any clients that would be problematic for ONO to be alongside. He said his firm turned down between 30% and 40% of those companies wanting to work with it. "You don't want to be next to 'bad actors'," he said. The companies who work with him are a mix of profit and non-profit.

Members' contributions



Journalism Ethics: 21 Essentials from Wars to Artificial Intelligence, is a new book written by our colleague **Eric Wishart** and was published earlier this year. It offers advice on all aspects of journalism ethics including accuracy and seeking the truth, representation of women, LGBTQ coverage, climate change, mental health, use of images, conflict reporting, elections, and how to use artificial intelligence in journalism. There are endorsements from **Alan Rusbridger**, the Guardian's former editor-in-chief, ONO president, **Margo Smit**, who said that the book "should be on every reporter's desk", and Fred Brown, chairman of the SPJ ethics committee. **Eric** is the standards and ethics editor, and former editor-in-chief, of the international news agency Agence France-Presse. Published by [Hong Kong University Press](#), the book is also available via Amazon, the Chicago University Press and other

platforms.

[Was It Unethical Not to Cover Biden's Apparent Decline?](#)

Steven Springer has spotted an interesting piece on the website of New York University's Journalism Institute. The article by **Stephen J. Adler**, director of the Ethics and Journalism Initiative at New York University, poses some awkward questions:

"What should journalists have done? The question goes to the heart of why we do journalism and thus to the heart of journalism ethics. It appears to have an easy answer – of course, you report as urgently and deeply as you can – but that's not how much of the profession saw it for one long and pivotal year."

[PRP Report on Press Intrusion and Regulation 2024](#)

The UK's **Press Recognition Panel** was set up after the inquiry by Lord Justice Leveson into phone hacking with the aim of regulating the British press. It has just published a report based on the experiences of ordinary members of the public who have been victims of press intrusion. It focused on 10 case studies where the individuals believed they had been poorly by the current regulatory system when seeking redress for intrusions into grief or privacy. The PRP is controversial. The bulk of national and regional newspapers are not regulated by the PRP, whose proprietors are strongly opposed to its existence, fearing it could be manipulated by government. Whatever view one takes of the state of press regulation in the UK, the case histories offer compelling evidence that journalists could and should do better by grieving individuals to avoid sanction in the first place.

Full disclosure: **Chris Elliott**, ONO's executive director, was one of the two authors of the report along with **Dr Aida Al-Kaisy**.

Poynter

[Wyoming reporter uncovers competitor using AI-generated quotes - Poynter](#)

A reporter resigned and the Cody Enterprise attached corrections to four articles after a competitor noted quotes that appeared real — but weren't.

[How newsrooms track the diversity of their sources can lead to tradeoffs in time spent, information collected](#)

[A 'media organizer' built an abolitionist newsroom in Kansas City. Is he a journalist? He's not yet sure.](#)

International Journalists' Network

[This "studio on wheels" is training young journalists in remote regions of Georgia](#)

Every weekend, a team of media trainers and translators takes a bus full of laptops, photo equipment and video cameras to the remote regions of Samtskhe Javakheti and Kvemo Kartli in southern Georgia. They visit villages — where the people are primarily ethnic Azerbaijani and Armenian, and the majority don't speak Georgian — to train young people on the basics of multimedia journalism.

[Guidelines for ethical reporting on children in conflict](#)

Global Investigative Journalism Network

[Test Your Data Visualization Skills With GIJN's Latest Quiz](#)

Reuters

["A point of no return": the fall of Stand News, Hong Kong's once leading online media outlet](#)

Nieman Reports

[You're as Good as Your Best Byline](#)

[As Press Freedoms Erode in Bangladesh, Political Cartoonists Are Being Targeted by An Increasingly Authoritarian Regime](#)

Columbia Journalism Review

[So long, and thanks for all the fish](#)

Journalism.co.uk

[Blockchain can help news publishers fight risks posed by fake news websites](#)

The Journalist's Resource

[MpoX: An explainer and research roundup](#)

The Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism
[Public perspectives on trust in news](#)

European Journalism Observatory
[The Invasion of \(Swiss\) Codes on Freedom of the Press](#)

The Fix
[Stephen Harrison on Wikipedia's role and its lessons for news media](#)

American Press Institute
[Laura Zommer, co-founder of Factchequeado: "Collaboration is our best option to fight misinformation"](#)

... **Pierre Champoux** discovers that a four-legged Ombudsman is a winner

 [Ombudsman provides decisive verdict at Deauville](#)

This is your newsletter!

If you want to share your own experiences or have reports all ONO members should know about, find us at newsombudsmenorg@gmail.com and we will include it in ONO's next newsletter.

Did you know...

...that the ONO Newsletter is also available on the ONO website? It may be a little later going up on the site this month, but it will be there.