

Advancing High-Quality Science Journalism: Challenges and Pathways Forward

Panelist Biographies



TRACY BAIM is executive director of Press Forward Chicago, a pooled fund for community journalism based at The Chicago Community Trust. Baim is co-founder and owner of Windy City Times. She is former publisher of the Chicago Reader newspaper. Baim has received Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Chicago Headline Club and the Chicago Journalists Association. In 2014, she was inducted into the NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists Hall of Fame. She is also in the Chicago LGBT Hall of Fame. She has won numerous LGBTQ community and journalism honors, including the Community Media Workshop's Studs Terkel Award in 2005 and the Lambda Legal Bon Foster Award in 2023. Baim has written and/or edited 14 books, her newest is *Liberating Healthcare*, a biography of Howard Brown Health.



SIRI CARPENTER is an award-winning science journalist and is co-founder, executive director, and editor-in-chief of *The Open Notebook*, a non-profit organization that is a leading source of training, mentoring, and community support for journalists who cover science. She is also the editor of the books *The Craft of Science Writing* and *The Best Science Stories and How They Work: A Collection with Commentary* (forthcoming Spring 2026 from the University of Chicago Press). Her writing and editorial work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Science*, *Scientific American*, *Science News*, *Discover*, *bioGraphic*, and many other publications. She serves on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Standing Committee on Advancing Science Communication. She has been a member of the National Association of Science Writers since 1998 and was president of NASW from 2018-2020. She is a member of the Online News Association and was the 2023 winner of the Online News Association's Community Award. She is also a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, the Association of Health Care Journalists, and other professional organizations. She has served on the jury for numerous journalism awards and honors, and speaks regularly to newsroom leaders, professional groups, and university programs. She has a Ph.D.

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in social psychology from Yale University and lives in Madison, Wisconsin.



TIM FRANKLIN is a professor and the John M. Mutz Chair in Local News at the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University. Tim is the founding director of the Medill Local News Initiative, which conducts nationally recognized research on the local news landscape in America and of news audiences. The initiative also works directly with news organizations on business model transformation. Before joining Medill in 2017 as senior associate dean, Franklin was the President of The Poynter Institute, an international school for journalists and a media think tank. Franklin has been the top editor of three metro newspapers, The Baltimore Sun, Orlando Sentinel, and Indianapolis Star. He also served as a managing editor in Washington for Bloomberg News. Franklin worked as a reporter and associate managing editor at the Chicago Tribune for 17 years. He has twice served as a jurist for the Pulitzer Prizes. And he has been inducted as a Distinguished Alumnus of the Indiana University School of Journalism. Franklin serves on the Board of Directors of the Local Media Foundation, the charitable trust of the Local Media Association, the largest local media trade association in North America representing newspapers, TV stations, radio outlets, digital-only news sites and R&D organizations. He also serves on The Associated Press Standards Advisory Panel and the board of the Alliance for Trust in Media. He was appointed by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker in 2023 to serve on the bipartisan Illinois Local Journalism Task Force.

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DUY LINH NGYUEN TU is a journalist and documentary filmmaker, focusing on science, climate, and the environment. His work has appeared in print, online, on television, and in theaters. He has been honored with Emmy, Murrow, Pictures of the Year, NPPA and other awards for his work. Tu is also the author of *Narrative Storytelling for Multimedia Journalists* (Focal Press). Tu is the Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Professional Practice at Columbia Journalism School and teaches reporting and video storytelling courses. He is also a graduate of the program.



LAUREN FELDMAN (Moderator) is Chair and Professor of Journalism and Media Studies in the School of Communication & Information at Rutgers University. Her current research emphasizes three intersecting areas of interest: climate change communication, partisan media and misinformation, and comedy and social change. Feldman's research has been widely published in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes, and she is co-author of the book, *A Comedian and an Activist Walk into a Bar: The Serious Role of Comedy in Social Justice* (University of California Press, 2020). Her work has been recognized with various academic awards, including article of the year awards from Mass Communication & Society and from the political communication division of the International Communication Association. Feldman serves on the editorial boards of *Journal of Communication*, *Communication Research*, and *Environmental Communication*, and she is an affiliate of the Rutgers Climate Institute and the George Mason University Center for Climate Change Communication. Feldman earned a B.A. in English from Duke University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Feldman served as a member of the NASEM committee that produced the report *Understanding and Addressing Misinformation about Science*.