The late St. Clair Balfour Fellow

Jim Rankin is a reporter-photographer at the Toronto Star specializing in investigations, data journalism and features. His work has been nominated for 10 National Newspaper Awards, many of them for group efforts on social justice issues. In 2002 he led a McLuhan Award-winning investigative series into race, policing and crime in Toronto, which led to repeated investigations into the police practice of carding. Jim has also steered the course of “tough on crime” Canadian penal policy, how school suspensions and expulsions lead to increased involvement with the criminal justice system and Ontario’s antiquated child protection system.

Born in North Bay, Ontario, Jim has degrees in Biology (University of Western Ontario) and Science Journalism (University of King’s College), and studied photography at Ryerson University. Before joining the Star, he worked at the North Bay Nugget, London Free Press and New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal. Jim lives in Toronto with his wife, Michelle Shephard — the Star’s national security reporter, author and documentary filmmaker. They have two cats (Bennet and Deportes, precociously by Woodward) and a Labradoodle named after cats (Bernstein and Deepthroat, predeceased by one). They raised a security blanket for the Nova Scotia mass shooting.

Webster McConnell Fellow

Natalie Alcoba
VICE, TORONTO

Natalie Alcoba is managing editor of VICE News in Canada. She has been a journalist for 15 years, covering everything from Rob Ford’s mayoralty, to the legacy of Argentina’s dirty war; from gang intervention on Chicago’s south side, to a soccer team of amputees in Sierra Leone. Most of these stories were produced while at the National Post, where she spent a decade reporting local, national and City Hall news. In 2010, she took a leave from the Post to freelance in India, where she wrote about slums, valve’s city battles and rural medicine. Natalie has also worked at the Hamilton Spectator, the Toronto Star and the Montreal Gazette. Her articles have appeared in the UNE’s The National and The Walrus, among other publications. In the spring of 2015, Natalie joined the investigative team at VICE Canada, guiding coverage on national issues such as the opioid epidemic, weed legalization, and the crisis of unsafe drinking water in First Nations communities. Natalie was born in Buenos Aires, grew up in Mississauga and lives in Toronto. Her cat’s name is Conrad Black, so make of that what you will. Above all, she loves documenting humanity — every loving, destructive, complicated facet that binds us together or pulls us apart.

The Citizen, Euan Sinclair Fellow

Naheed Mustafa
FREELANCE, TORONTO

Naheed Mustafa is an award-winning producer, writer and broadcaster. She began her career as a freelance reporter when she moved to Pakistan, where she worked for both local English-language media as well as newspapers back home in Canada. After returning to Canada in the mid-90s, Naheed began working as a writer and researcher for documentary films and for publications in the early days of the internet. In 2000, Naheed added broadcasting to her list of media platforms by becoming a regular documentary contributor at CBC Radio and, later, the BBC and Radio Netherlands. While she works as a generalist, Naheed’s particular area of interest is looking at the social and cultural consequences of political instability. Her work documenting conflict and war in Pakistan and Afghanistan and its impact on civilian populations has appeared in both Canadian and international media. Alongside documentaries, Naheed also produces a variety of news and current affairs programs at CBC Radio including Dispatches, At It Happens, The Current and Ideas. Naheed credits her eclectic interests to her itinerant life having growing up between Canada, Sudan and Pakistan, and, from an early age, being exposed to a variety of cultures and points of view.

CBC/Radio-Canada Fellow

Silvia Regina Rosa
FREELANCE, TORONTO

Silvia Rosa was born in São Roque, a city located in the countryside of the state of São Paulo. A journalist with more than a decade of experience, Silvia currently works as a multimedia journalist covering the banking sector with Valor Econômico, a financial newspaper in São Paulo. Silvia has also covered financial markets, including monetary policy in Brazil, for the real-time news service Valor Pre and has produced videos on the Brazilian financial market for Valor Econômico Online. Previous to this, she worked for Gazeta Mercantil, Reuters and Bloomberg Americas. Rosa has exposed cases of abuse of power by the private sector in Brazil — specifically the fraud involving Bank BVA funds. She also freelances in English, writing about the IT market in Brazil. In 2012, as a member of the Valor Investe magazine team, she won the Sherry Prize for an article on the housing bubble in São Paulo. Silvia is a graduate of UNESP University’s Journalism Program and holds an MBA in Economic- Financial Information and Capital Markets. She has also studied digital marketing and the use of big data analytics tools on social media. In her spare time Silvia participates in a voluntary work project focused on providing financial education for a low income community in São Paulo.

McLaughlin Centre Fellow

Siobhan Roberts

Siobhan Roberts is a journalist and author whose work focuses on mathematics and science. She currently writes for The Walrus, The New Yorker and the Financial Times. Over the years, she has won National Magazine Awards for long-form pieces in Canadian Geographic, Toronto Life and Saturday Night. Her latest book is Genius at Play: The Curious Mind of John Henton Conway (Bloomsbury, 2017), which was longlisted for the BC National Award and the RBC Taylor Prize, and won the 2017 JPM Communications Award for Expository and Popular Books, bestowed by the American Mathematical Society and the Mathematical Association of America. While working Genius at Play, Roberts was a Fellow at the Levy Centre for Biography at CLUNY in New York City and a Director’s Visitor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Her previous books are Wind Woman, Alan G. Dawson and the Art of Wind Engineering (PUP, 2012), and King of Infinite Space — Donald Coxeter, The Man Who Saved Geometry (House of Anansi, 2008), which won the Mathematical Association of America’s 2009 Euler Prize for expanding the public’s view of mathematics. She also wrote and produced a documentary about Coxeter for TVOntario’s The View From Here.