
Featured Speakers & Panelists



John Silva

Senior director of professional learning, the News Literacy Project

John Silva is the News Literacy Project's senior director of professional learning. He joined NLP in March 2017 with 13 years of experience as a middle and high social studies teacher with Chicago Public Schools. He first became involved with news literacy in 2014 when his students engaged in NLP's original classroom program. A U.S. Marine Corps veteran, John spent several years in corporate telecommunications positions before deciding to become a teacher. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Chicago with a bachelor's degree in the teaching of history and has a master's degree in education, with a concentration in e-learning, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He became a National Board-Certified Teacher in 2012.



Shaelynn Farnsworth

Senior director of education partnership strategy

Shaelynn Farnsworth is the News Literacy Project's senior director of education partnership strategy.

Shaelynn has over 20 years of experience in education. She spent the first part of her career as a high school English teacher in Conrad, Iowa, where she reimagined teaching and learning in her classroom and became a leader in the convergence between literacy and technology. Shaelynn focused on developing student skills in information consumption, creating innovative ways for students to demonstrate understanding, and inspiring healthy skepticism in the digital age. She was recruited by a regional state education agency in Iowa, where she was a school improvement consultant for seven years. Shaelynn supported districts throughout Iowa in the areas of literacy, technology, AIW, and systemic change. She was a member of the state's literacy, social studies, and technology leadership teams.

Shaelynn holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in English from the University of Northern Iowa.





Ali Velshi

MSNBC anchor

Ali Velshi brings his sharp analysis and point-of-view to the new weekend morning show, “Velshi,” airing from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. ET on Saturdays and Sundays on MSNBC. Previously, Velshi anchored “MSNBC Live” and “Velshi & Ruhle.” The MSNBC host will continue to serve as a fill-in prime anchor and cover breaking news for the cable network.

Velshi has covered a wide range of domestic, global and economic issues throughout his career, including climate change, the spread and defeat of ISIS, the refugee crisis, the Iran nuclear deal, tensions between Russia and the west, the Greek debt crisis and the global financial crisis.

Before joining NBC News and MSNBC in 2016, Velshi hosted “Ali Velshi On Target,” a nightly primetime show on Al Jazeera America. Before that, he served as CNN’s Chief Business Correspondent, anchor of CNN International’s “World Business Today” and host of CNN’s weekly business roundtable “Your Money.” Velshi also co-hosted CNN’s morning show, “American Morning.”

Born in Kenya and raised in Canada, Velshi graduated from Queen’s University in Canada, which bestowed an honorary Doctorate of Laws upon him in 2016. Velshi splits his time between New York City and Philadelphia, where he teaches a course at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



Amna Nawaz

Co-anchor of PBS NewsHour; NBC News and MSNBC political contributor

Amna Nawaz serves as co-anchor of PBS NewsHour.

Prior to joining PBS NewsHour in April 2018, Nawaz was an anchor and correspondent at ABC News, anchoring breaking news coverage and leading the network’s livestream coverage of the 2016 presidential election. Before that, she served as foreign correspondent and Islamabad Bureau Chief at NBC News. She is also the founder and former managing editor of NBC’s Asian America platform, built in 2014, to elevate stories from America’s fastest growing and most diverse population.

At the NewsHour, Nawaz has reported from the White House, across the country, and around the world on a range of topics including politics, immigration, foreign affairs, education, gun violence, criminal justice reform, the climate, culture, and sports.

She also serves as an NBC News and MSNBC political contributor.

In 2019, Nawaz became the first Asian American and the first Muslim American to moderate a presidential debate. Nawaz was a Fall 2021 Fellow at Georgetown University's Institute of Politics and Public Service. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the Asian American Journalists Association, the South Asian Journalists Association, and the Inter-American Dialogue.

She is the first-generation American daughter of Pakistani parents, born and raised in Virginia. Nawaz earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania, where she captained the varsity field hockey team and studied abroad at the University of Zimbabwe. She later earned her master's degree from the London School of Economics.

 [@IAmAmnaNawaz](https://twitter.com/IAmAmnaNawaz)



Tom Llamas

NBC News senior national correspondent; anchor; “Top Story with Tom Llamas” on NBC News Now

Tom Llamas is NBC News' senior national correspondent based in New York. He reports for all NBC News platforms, including NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, TODAY, NBC News NOW, and MSNBC. He is also the anchor of a primetime newscast for NBC News NOW, which debuted in Fall 2021.

Since joining NBC News in 2021, Llamas has been on the ground reporting on the elementary school shooting in Uvalde, the war in Ukraine, the building collapse in Surfside, migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and the coronavirus pandemic.

Prior to joining NBC News, Llamas was the anchor of ABC News' World News Tonight weekend edition and the network's chief national affairs correspondent. He also anchored breaking news and live events for ABC News Live.

Llamas has received numerous awards and honors throughout his career, including the National Association of Hispanic Journalists' Presidential Award of Impact and the El Award from El Diario, the largest and oldest Spanish-language daily in the U.S. In 2013, he received Emmy awards for Best Anchor and Best Hard News Story and in 2012, he won two regional Edward R. Murrow awards for

feature and hard news reporting. Additionally, he was also part of the WNBC team that won the Murrow award for breaking news coverage of Hurricane Sandy in 2014.

A native of Miami, he graduated from Loyola University in New Orleans with Bachelor of Arts degrees in broadcast journalism, as well as drama and speech. Llamas also completed a program at the University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies, which focused on Raul Castro and Cuban American voters.

He currently resides in Manhattan with his wife, two daughters and son.

 [@LlamasNBC](#)



Brandy Zadrozny Senior reporter, NBC News

Brandy Zadrozny is a senior reporter for NBC News. She covers misinformation, extremism and the internet.

Before joining NBC News, Zadrozny was a senior researcher and writer at The Daily Beast. Zadrozny has a master's degree in library and information science from the Pratt Institute. She is a current research fellow at the Technology and Social Change Project at Harvard Kennedy School's Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy, and host of the NBC News' podcast, "Tiffany Dover is Dead."

 [@BrandyZadrozny](#)



Chris Scholl Senior Vice President of News Standards, NBCU News Group

Christopher Scholl currently is the Senior Vice President of News Standards at the NBCU News Group.

The Standards team plays a pivotal role in everything from investigations to coverage of major breaking news events by overseeing newsgathering policies of accuracy, fairness, and transparency in reporting.

Scholl's background is in investigative journalism, which he did for nearly 30 years before joining Standards in 2014.



Jesse Rodriguez

Vice President for Editorial & Booking, MSNBC

Jesse Rodriguez is the Vice President for Editorial & Booking at MSNBC, focusing on the guest appearances on the channel's weekday morning show, Morning Joe, daytime hours of news coverage, primetime programming, and network specials. He also coordinates the editorial focus of the day's coverage for the primetime programs.

Previously, Jesse was the Director of Booking for the channel, and a senior producer of Morning Joe, where he booked the show's revolving roster of politicians, experts, and newsmakers while overseeing segment research and production, and planning on-location shows.

Before joining the Morning Joe team, he was a Booking Producer on MSNBC's The Dylan Ratigan Show for two years following his time as a Planning Producer for MSNBC's daytime news.

Before that, Jesse was with CBS's Miami affiliate WFOR-TV as the weeknight assignment editor. Jesse was instrumental in breaking the news of Fidel Castro's 2006 transfer of power to his brother Raul Castro, leading the station to be the first English-language news organization to break the story. The station won an Edward R. Murrow award for coverage of the event.

Jesse is the 2002 Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards national winner for Literature and Journalism. Jesse attended Florida International University where he studied International Relations. He is a member of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists & NLGJA: The Association of LGBTQ Journalists.

 [@JesseRodriguez](https://twitter.com/JesseRodriguez)



Bill Hinkle

Coordinating Booking Producer, NBC News NOW

Bill has been booking and producing guests for major news outlets for over a decade. He recently relocated from Los Angeles to NYC where he manages the booking department for NBC News' streaming service NBC News NOW.

 [@Bill_HinkleJr](https://twitter.com/Bill_HinkleJr)



Lori Ann LaRocco
CNBC News senior editor of guests

Lori Ann LaRocco is an American Journalist and is also the best-selling author of "Trade War Containers Don't Lie: Navigating the Bluster (Marine Money 2019), "Dynasties of the Sea: The Untold Stories of the Postwar Shipping Pioneers (Marine Money, 2018), "Opportunity Knocking" (Agate Publishing, 2014), "Dynasties of the Sea: The Shipowners and Financiers Who Expanded the Era of Free Trade" (Marine Money, 2012), and "Thriving in the New Economy" (Wiley, 2010).

As Senior Editor of Guests at CNBC, Lori Ann has the ear of some of the world's biggest business minds. Lori Ann has been working at the network since 2000. She was first hired as one of Maria Bartiromo's producers on her first primetime show, "Market Week." Lori Ann has produced and booked interviews with some of the biggest names in business. Her track record has garnered her trust and respect, from Wall Street to Washington. Lori Ann's relationships with top business leaders have earned her first access to business deals in the billions of dollars, the network, to break the news first. Prior to joining CNBC, Lori Ann was an anchor, reporter and assignment editor in various local news markets around the country.



Andre Brooks
NBC News NOW executive producer

Andre Brooks is a passionate storyteller, developing and supervising breaking news coverage in roles as an executive producer, line producer and writer/producer at network and local news for 15 years. With deep roots in journalism, he has a solid track record across traditional and digital news platforms.

Currently, Brooks is an Executive Producer for NBC News Now, an online streaming network from NBC News featuring the latest stories and breaking news in the U.S. and around the world. Prior to his management role, Brooks was a senior producer and producer on the morning news team of NBC News Now.

Previously, Brooks was a line producer and writer/producer for CBS This Morning. He helped build a dynamic, relevant rundown, providing editorial guidance to writers, editors and directors to determine story selection and

placement. From 2010 to 2017, Brooks worked as an executive producer responsible for up to four hours of morning news coverage in top local television markets including Atlanta, Denver, San Diego and Jacksonville.

In 2016, Brooks received the prestigious Alumni Journalist of the Year Award from his alma mater, California State University in Los Angeles. In 2011, he was nominated for Emerging Journalist of the Year by the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ). In 2010, he won a national Telly Award, an international Videographer Award and an international Communicator Award. He was also awarded Best Produced Segment from The Electronic News Magazine in 2005. Brooks is a longtime member of the NABJ.

Brooks has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Television, Film and Media Studies from Cal State, LA.

 [@atbrooks21](#)



Marci Santiago

Booking Producer for MSNBC'S "Deadline: White House" with Nicolle Wallace

Marci Santiago is an Emmy-nominated television producer and has covered politics, business and international news for over 10 years. She is currently a Booking Producer for MSNBC's Deadline White House with Nicolle Wallace where she oversees booking of diverse political voices, high profile guests and subject matter experts on a range of topics.

Before joining MSNBC, Marci was a producer at Al Jazeera America and Fox Business Network. She got her start as a reporter and producer covering local government and a melting pot of cultures at BronxNet in Bronx, New York.

 [@MarciSantiago23](#)



Nina Sen

Director, News Standards - Race, Class, Gender, NBC News

Nina Sen looks at our coverage of diversity to shape our role and responsibilities as a media outlet in the national conversation.

Through Standards, she puts out guidance on terminology, image use and tone as well as sharing learnings across the organization.

 @ninasen1230



Zinhle Essamuah

NBC News NOW Correspondent

Zinhle Essamuah is a reporter for NBC News, primarily working across NBC News NOW. Prior to this, she was a correspondent at NowThis social media-platform news organization and host of the “KnowThis” weekly news and interview show. Essamuah’s original reports on COVID-19 and Black maternal mortality, the new generation of racially diverse truckers amid supply chain stalls, and detention facilities have garnered millions of views. Her documentary films include The Minority Vote, about issues that faced millennials during the 2016 election, and Hands Up, which follows stories of the Black Lives Matter movement and earned a Gracie Award. A public speaker, she moderated the first Intergenerational Town Hall at the United Nations.

 @simplyzinhle



Guad Venegas

NBC News correspondent

Guad Venegas is currently an NBC News Correspondent. Venegas has reported from Cuba for Hurricane Ian, the US Mexico Border for the Migrant Crisis, Jackson Mississippi for the water crisis and Uvalde, Texas for the elementary school shooting. He has been with NBC News since Feb 2021.

Prior to NBC, Venegas worked for Telemundo News for 4 years. At Telemundo News, he covered a wide range of stories, including the 2020 presidential election and the protests that followed the killing of George Floyd. He also

notably crossed the Texas border into Mexico to cover the virtual hearings for asylum seekers trying to enter America.

Previously, Guad was a sports anchor for NBC Deportes, anchoring Noticiero Nacional Fin De Semana and NBCUniversal's sports highlights show, Escena Deportiva. He also covered the London Olympics in 2012 with Telemundo Deportes.

A three-time Emmy winner, Guad graduated from San Diego State University with a double-degree in communications and Spanish arts and letters. He is fluent in both English and Spanish and is a dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico.

 [@Guadvenegas](#)



Jamie Nguyen

NBC News Consumer Investigations senior producer

Jamie Nguyen is a multi-Emmy award winning, multi-platform journalist, and newsroom leader who has spent more than two decades in the industry. She is currently coordinating producer, overseeing the consumer investigative unit which produces content for all platforms of NBC News, including: The Today Show, NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt, NBC News Now and MSNBC.

In March, she conceived and produced The Racism Virus, a network primetime special devoted to the rise in attacks against Asian Americans. The hour long program featured leading voices from across the country and brought together community organizers, political leaders, and celebrities including Jeremy Lin, Margret Cho and Olivia Munn.

Prior to NBC News, she worked at top stations around the country from New York to California. She's covered some of the biggest stories in the past two decades, from the field to the control room, she has served in various roles rising through the ranks before landing her dream job at 30 Rock.

She's a proud first generation Vietnamese American. When not working she enjoys reading and binge-watching whatever she can. She and her husband live in New York City with their daughter Claire.

 [@JamieNguyenTV](#)



Chiara Sottile

NBC News reporter and producer

Chiara Sottile is a producer and reporter for NBC News based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She describes her job as helping people tell their important stories on national broadcasts like *NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt* and *The TODAY Show*. As the daughter of a Sicilian immigrant and Karuk American Indian, she cares deeply about the need for diverse voices in the media and about telling stories outside the confines of stereotypes.

In 2021, she co-founded the first ever employee resource group for Indigenous peoples at NBCUniversal. In just its first year, this community of Indigenous folks and allies, called Indigenous@NBCU, has grown to several hundred people, hosted a dozen inspiring events amplifying the voices of Indigenous peoples, and created a mentorship program.

She earned my Master's in Broadcast Journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, graduating with honors in 2011. She also holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles.

 @CASottile



Belén Smole

Philadelphia's Telemundo 62 anchor

Belén Smole is an anchor for Telemundo62 in Philadelphia, PA. Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, she immigrated to the United States in 2016 to pursue her master's in journalism at Columbia University. She has been awarded ten regional Emmy awards for her work as an investigative and general assignment reporter in Houston, Denver, and Albuquerque. Throughout her career, she has worked to express the needs and concerns of immigrants, victims of clergy sexual abuse, the transgender community and people with disabilities.

 @BelenSmole



Tracey Eyers

NBC News Race, Equality and Justice Executive Editor

Tracey Eyers is the Executive Editor of the Race, Equality, and Justice Unit of NBC News and MSNBC. In this role, Tracey works closely with the editorial leads of all platforms to ensure the division's reporting and programming properly reflects the diversity of its audiences and amplifies all voices across the community. The unit also spearheads initiatives on race and culture and is a place for producers to pitch relevant stories. Most recently, the Race, Equality, and Justice Unit, oversaw comprehensive cross-platform coverage of the Tulsa Race Massacre 100 Year Anniversary. In addition, her team planned and advised on extensive coverage around missing people of color, disparities in education, the state of policing in America, climate injustice, and the ongoing fight surrounding land reparations.

Previously, Tracey was an Executive Producer at BuzzFeed, where she launched and managed several original shows across the BuzzFeed portfolio including PROFILE by BuzzFeed News, a talk-show with a studio audience. She also served as Executive Producer for a panel-style Twitter show, a Snap Chat show and more. At BuzzFeed, Tracey later joined the development team where she focused on developing innovative content that leveraged the power of internet platforms. In 2019, Tracey launched BuzzFeed's first daily podcast, BuzzFeed Daily, in partnership with iHeart.

Prior to joining BuzzFeed, Tracey served as the Executive Producer of Talk Stoop, the long running celebrity interview show hosted by Nessa Diab, which ran on NBC stations and the daytime schedule of cable's USA Network. In addition, Tracey also simultaneously served as Executive Producer of NBC's original luxury real-estate and design series, Open House. In this role, Tracey managed teams on two coasts, spearheaded sales and editorial partnerships and oversaw international shoots. Additionally, within NBC's lifestyle division, Tracey split her skillset between broadcast, digital products and live special programming, including NBC's Golden Globe red carpet coverage. Her two decades of experience writing, producing and leading teams to create innovative content has won Tracey four Emmy awards, and multiple Emmy nominations.



Yvette Miley

Senior Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, NBCUniversal News Group

Award-winning journalist Yvette M. Miley serves as SVP of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the NBCU News Group. Her responsibilities include recruiting and retention, training and development, employee engagement, strategic partnerships, and editorial initiatives across NBC News, MSNBC and CNBC. Miley leads the News Group's Fifty Percent Challenge, an initiative launched by Chairman Cesar Conde that aspires for newsrooms to be 50% women and 50% people of color.

Miley founded and launched [NBCU Academy](#), a continuous learning effort that provides training, grants and access to journalism students and professionals from diverse and marginalized communities. Since launching in 2021, NBCU Academy has partnered with 30 schools across the country.

Miley has worked for NBCUniversal for 31 years. Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Public Policy from the University of California, Los Angeles.



Julia E. Torres

Director of special projects, EduColor

Julia E. Torres is a nationally recognized veteran language arts teacher-librarian in Denver, Colorado. Julia facilitates teacher development workshops rooted in the areas of anti-racist education, equity and access in literacy and librarianship, and education as a practice of liberation.

Julia's work has been featured on NPR, AlJazeera's The Stream, PBS Education, KQED's MindShift, Rethinking Schools, Learning for Justice Magazine, and many more. She is a current Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award committee member, a member of both the Book Love Foundation and ALAN boards of directors, an Educolor Steering committee member, a The Educator Collaborative Book Ambassador, and a co-founder of #DisruptTexts.

 [@juliaerin80](#)



Natalie Moore

WBEZ reporter & host of Checkology® lesson Harm & Distrust

Author and WBEZ reporter Natalie Moore covers segregation and inequality. Her enterprise reporting has tackled race, housing, economic development, food injustice and violence. Natalie's work has been broadcast on the BBC, Marketplace and NPR's Morning Edition, All Things Considered and Weekend Edition. Natalie is the author of *The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and American Segregation*, winner of the 2016 Chicago Review of Books award for nonfiction and a BuzzFeed best nonfiction book of 2016. She is also co-author of *The Almighty Black P Stone Nation: The Rise, Fall and Resurgence of an American Gang* and *Deconstructing Tyrone: A New Look at Black Masculinity in the Hip-Hop Generation*. Natalie is the author of "The Billboard," a play about abortion; 16th Street Theater produced the play.

 [@natalieymoore](https://twitter.com/natalieymoore)



Wesley Lowery

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist

Wesley Lowery is a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author, and contributing editor at The Marshall Project and a Visiting Professional at CUNY Graduate School of Journalism. Lowery was previously a national correspondent at The Washington Post, specializing in issues of race and law enforcement. He led the team awarded the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting in 2016 for the creation and analysis of a real-time database to track fatal police shootings in the United States. His project, "Murder with Impunity," an unprecedented look at unsolved homicides in major American cities, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 2019. His first book, *They Can't Kill Us All: Ferguson, Baltimore, and a New Era in America's Racial Justice Movement*, was a New York Times bestseller and awarded the Christopher Isherwood Prize for Autobiographical Prose by the LA Times Book Prizes.

 [@WesleyLowery](https://twitter.com/WesleyLowery)



Peter Adams

Senior vice president of research and design, the News Literacy Project

Peter Adams became the News Literacy Project’s senior vice president of research and design after several years at the organization’s head of education. He began his career as a classroom teacher in the New York City schools through Teach for America. He has also taught in the Chicago public schools, at Roosevelt University and at Chicago City Colleges’ Wilbur Wright campus. In addition, he has worked with the NY Teaching Fellows program, with After School Matters and as an independent education consultant. Peter has served in a variety of positions at NLP and is a graduate of Indiana University, where he majored in English and African American studies, and co-founded an independent monthly student newspaper. He has a master’s degree in the humanities from the University of Chicago.

 [@PeterD_Adams](https://twitter.com/PeterD_Adams)