

8:15 AM **Arrival**

9:00 AM **Welcome to the Forum**

Kenneth R. Weinstein, *Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors and President and CEO, Hudson Institute*

9:10 AM **Opening Keynote – Why Media for Democracy, and Why Now?**

Alec Ross, *Technology Policy Expert, Innovator and Author*

9:45 AM **Panel 1 – New and Emerging Threats to Media Freedom: What’s Next?**

Technology and media have never been more intertwined. Despite so much potential and promise for access to information, the number of countries where journalists can operate freely is declining and press freedom indices are backsliding. This panel will explore what is happening to freedom of expression around the world and online, what it means for democracy and what we can do to reverse these trends.

Amanda Bennett, *Director, Voice of America*

Libby Liu, *President, Radio Free Asia*

Sarah Repucci, *Senior Director for Research and Analysis, Freedom House*

Arturo Filastò, *Founder, Open Observatory of Network Interference*

Christopher Walker, *Vice President, National Endowment for Democracy*

Moderator: Shawn Powers, *Acting Chief Strategy Officer, U.S. Agency for Global Media*

11:00–11:15 AM **Coffee Break and Networking**

11:15 AM **Panel 2 – Networks of Destruction: Disinformation and its Discontents**

This panel will explore dis-, mis-, and mal-information and the ways propaganda works in the digital age. We will discuss strategies for transparent storytelling in the age of disinformation to show how institutions can build trust with audiences, which is crucial in an era where people question what they see and hear. The panelists will pay particular attention to the Kremlin’s efforts to distort the free internet space and the latest electoral campaign in Ukraine.

Introduction: Franak Viačorka, *Digital Media Strategist, U.S. Agency for Global Media*

Simon Ostrovsky, *Journalist and Filmmaker, Coda Story*

Peter Pomerantsev, *Senior Fellow London School of Economics, Director of Arena Initiative*

Natalia Sedletska, *Author and Host, RFE/RL investigative TV show “Schemes”*

Moderator: Melinda Haring, *Editor of UkraineAlert at The Atlantic Council*

12:30 PM **Lunch, Networking**

1:15 PM | Keynotes – Re-Engaging in the Information Battlefield
John F. Lansing, *Chief Executive Officer and Director, U.S. Agency for Global Media*
The Honorable Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)

1:45 PM | Panel 3 – Machined Media: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Journalism

Panelists from across government and the private sector will discuss how artificial intelligence (AI) and other advanced technologies can and will impact the future media landscape. Discussions will include the role of AI in making content smarter and more engaging, the use of machine learning and other techniques to craft and implement creative strategies to reach audiences, and the proliferation of next generation “deepfakes” and machine-generated content.

Sameena Shah, *Managing Director, Head of Data Science, S&P Global Ratings*

Shamir Allibhai, *CEO, Amber Video and Founder, Simon Says*

Mike Pritchard, *White House Presidential Innovation Fellow*

Phil Anderson, *Data Scientist, U.S. Department of State*

Nicole Martin, *Contributor, Forbes and Owner, NR Digital Consulting*

Moderator: Makena Kelly, *Policy Reporter, The Verge*

3:00-3:15 PM | Coffee Break and Networking

3:15 PM | Panel 4 – Re-imagining Journalism: Storytelling for Civic Engagement

From Iran’s green revolution to the Arab Spring, media and technology are no longer simply used to cover social change; they are fundamentally intertwined with how events unfold. Emerging technologies and new forms of storytelling are fundamentally creating new pathways for civic engagement.

Robert Hernandez, *USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism*

Andreas Giefer, *Coordinator, Deutsche Welle Lab*

Emma Lacey-Bordeaux, *D.C. Editor, The Row at CNN*

Thaer Soukar, *Director of Digital Content, Middle East Broadcasting Networks*

Moderator: Rami Khater, *Chief Technology Officer and Director of Research, U.S. Agency for Global Media*

4:30 PM: | Closing Keynotes – Key Challenges and Next Steps

Steve Capus, *Former President, NBC News and Former Executive Editor and Producer, CBS News*

The Honorable Congressman Chris Stewart (R-UT)