

ISOJ 2023: Day 1

Special Announcement from ICFJ

- [Cristina Tardáguila](#), senior program director, **International Center for Journalists (ICFJ)**
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Cristina Tardáguila How do we find those people in all those organizations who are actually putting money towards misleading our people? So Disarming Disinformation is a program that is brand new. It's in its first year. It's going to be a three-year-long program, and it's probably the largest program right now running in six languages and in six regions of the world. Today, I can totally and easily say that we have here the largest team of people and the largest amount of money to actually point out and reveal who is funding disinformation in the Americas.

For the last month, we have run a wonderful experience and we had the opportunity to offer more than 200 content producers around the continent, masterclasses offered by giants like Claire Wardle, Craig Silverman, Patrícia Campos Mello, Giannina Segnini and others who are also battling against disinformation. After those masterclasses, about 60 journalists in the Americas applied for the “Investigathon” and we picked 19 of them. Those 19 people are probably in this room, and they've been in Austin for the last 48 hours. They have been working together, sharing sources, sharing databases, learning tools, and exchanging information about how to be safe while investigating those terrible funders of disinformation. Now I'm very, very happy to say that out of the 19 that came to meet us here in Austin, we have eight that will receive \$10,000 to work with mentors —those wonderful mentors I just mentioned — for the next two months to deliver great stories in different formats.

Five of those eight are going to be supported by the Scripps Howard Foundation, which is the main organization behind Disarming Disinformation program, and three of the eight will be sponsored by Serrapilheira Institute, a Brazilian organization focused on the science in this moment focused on disinformation and in science. So if you are in the room and you've been with us, I will share your name and I really, really want you to stand up. I ask the others to give them a round of applause. It's been several months they've been trying to get this grant and they've been working very, very hard.

So the first one that we have is going to be all the Scripps Howard Foundation Fellows. The first one is... Next slide... Daniela Mendoza. She's going to work on disinformation targeting migrants that are trying to enter the United States, and she has an amazing team. Congrats, Dani. The second one, please. Laura Sofia Matiz from Colombia, who is going to show us who is paying for cross-border disinformation on elections. That's going to be a tough one. The third one, Luis Fakhouri. Congratulations. He's going to work on anti-democratic disinformation and focus on January 8 and 6 relationships. Congrats, Luis. Very happy with that. The next one, please. Marco Dalla Stella. Amazing. I cannot share what he's going to investigate because we want to keep you safe and we are going to be quiet until the day you release your investigation. The very last one from Scripps Howard Foundation is Pablo Fernández, who has a gigantic team in North America, and will be focusing on who is disinforming about women's rights. That's a very, very important issue of course.

Now, those who did not win. We love you and we will support you as much as we can. As I said yesterday, we are ready to amplify your work. We are really expecting you to publish your investigations. ICFJ and IGNet is here to help you reach new audiences and new languages and new continents. Do not, you know, do not feel sad. You are as good as the others.

So let's go now to the Serrapilheira Fellows, please. The first one is Fabiana Cambricoli, who is going to tell us what's going on with those doctors that are disinforming. Who is paying them to do so? And we are really eager to see that. Fabiana, congrats. The second one is Jacqueline Sordi, who is going to tell us something that we cannot tell you now. We will keep you protected, Jackie, as much as we can. The very last one in the Serrapilheira group is Nádia Pontes, who is going to work on a topic that is also very secret, and we will protect you as long as we can.

o before I finish this, and I know we're a minute away from lunch, I really, really want to thank Rosental and the Knight Center team, Mallary and Teresa. You were so helpful in this first year. They helped us in the masterclasses. They helped us organize everything here in Austin. I mean, I will be thankful forever, and I just want to invite you all in this room to join this program because it's a three-year-long program. So there are other series of events going on. This is just one track of the program, and it will be offered again next year and the following. So we have three years to actually point out who is paying for disinformation. Thank you so much. Have a great lunch.