



The Writers Guild of America East and MOST Resource
Present...

**To Drone or Not to Drone: Writing Conflict,
Law Enforcement & Legalities in the 21st
Century**

Monday, April 2nd, 2012
6:30 pm

LOCATION

Writers Guild of America, East
250 Hudson St.
Suite 700
New York, NY 10013

PANELISTS – (Alphabetical order)

Mark Bowden:

An *Atlantic Monthly* national correspondent, Mark Bowden is an author, journalist, screenwriter, and teacher. His book [*Black Hawk Down: A Story of Modern War*](#) (1999)—an international bestseller that spent more than a year on the *New York Times* bestseller list—was a finalist for the National Book Award. Bowden also worked on the screenplay for *Black Hawk Down*, a film adaptation of the book, directed by Ridley Scott. Bowden is also the author of the international bestseller [*Killing Pablo: The Hunt for the World's Greatest Outlaw*](#) (2001), which tells the story of the hunt for Colombian cocaine billionaire Pablo Escobar. *Killing Pablo* won the Overseas Press Club's Cornelius Ryan Award as the best book in 2001 and is currently being adapted for film, with Bowden again writing the screenplay. He is also the author of [*Doctor Dealer*](#) (1987), [*Bringing the Heat*](#) (1994), [*Our Finest Day*](#) (2002) and [*Finders Keepers*](#) (2002). Bowden contributes regularly to major American magazines. He is also an adjunct professor at Loyola College of Maryland, where he teaches creative writing and journalism. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, in 1951, Bowden grew up in Illinois, New York, and Maryland. He graduated from Loyola College of Maryland in 1973 with a B.A. in English Literature. He lives in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Catherine Crier:

An Emmy and duPont-Columbia Award-winning journalist, and the youngest state judge ever elected in Texas, Catherine Crier began work in journalism following a chance meeting with a television news executive in 1989, when she was hired to co-anchor the premiere evening newscast on CNN. Additionally, she co-anchored *Inside Politics* and hosted *Crier & Company*, a talk show covering news, politics and international issues. In 1993, she joined ABC News in 1993 as a correspondent and substitute anchor for Peter Jennings on ABC's *World News Tonight* and for Ted Koppel's *Nightline*. As a correspondent on *20/20*, Crier was awarded a 1996 Emmy for Outstanding Investigative Journalism. In 1996, Crier joined the Fox News Channel, hosting her live prime time hour-long program, *The Crier Report*. She also co-anchored the evening news, election coverage, and *Fox Files*, then joined *Court TV*'s anchors in November 1999. She also executive-edited *Legal News Specials* and hosted *Catherine Crier Live*, until joining *Cajole Entertainment* in 2007.

Crier's first book, the NYTimes bestseller, *The Case Against Lawyers* was published in 2002. Her second book, *A Deadly Game: The Untold Story of the Scott Peterson Investigation* became a #1 NYTimes bestseller. Other books include *Contempt—How the Right is Wronging American Justice*, and *Final Analysis: The Untold Story of the Susan Polk Murder Case*. Her fifth book, *Patriot Acts—What Americans Must Do to Save the Republic*, came out in 2011.

Sebastian Junger:

Sebastian Junger is the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author of *The Perfect Storm*, *A Death in Belmont* and *Fire*. As a contributing editor to *Vanity Fair* and as a contributor to ABC News, he has covered major international news stories in Liberia, Sierra Leone and other places around the globe. He has been awarded the National Magazine Award and an SAIS Novartis Prize for Journalism. Junger became a fixture in the national media when, as a first-time author, he commanded The New York Times best-seller list for more than three years with *The Perfect Storm*, which later set sales records and became a major motion picture from Warner Bros.

For over a year, Junger and photojournalist Tim Hetherington embedded with battle company of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, in the remote and heavily contested Korengal valley of eastern Afghanistan. Reporting on the war from the soldiers' perspective, Junger spent weeks at a time at a remote outpost that saw more combat than almost anywhere else in the entire country. The professional result is twofold: an upcoming book titled *WAR* (Twelve, May 2010), and a 96-minute documentary *Restrepo* that won the 2010 Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival and will air on the National Geographic Channel and in theatrical release.

Peter W. Singer:

Peter Singer is Senior Fellow and Director of the 21st Century Defense Initiative at the Brookings Institution. Considered one of the world's leading experts on changes in 21st century warfare, he was named by the president to the Joint Forces Command's Transformation Advisory Group, which helps the military visualize and prepare for the future. He is the author of three nonfiction books ("*Corporate Warriors*," "*Children at War*," and "*Wired for War*"), and he has provided commentary in media outlets from Al Jazeera and Fox to BBC and NPR. He has delivered speeches at the U.S. Congress and at more than 50 universities around the world. He was named by CNN to their "New Guard" List of the Next Generation of Newsmakers; by the Smithsonian Institution-National Portrait Gallery as one of the 100 "leading innovators in the nation"; and he was featured in the Turner Broadcasting series "26 People to Save the World." He was named by Foreign Policy Magazine to their Top 100 Global Thinkers List.

In his personal capacity, Singer served as coordinator of the Obama '08 campaign's defense policy task force. He is also a consultant for the U.S. Department of Defense and the FBI, and he has advised a host of entertainment programs, including video game series like "*Call of Duty*"; movies like "*Traitor*," "*Whistleblower*," "*Line of Sight*" and "*Battleship*"; and TV series like "*The West Wing*," "*Curiosity*" and "*Strikeback*." Singer is also a founding organizer of Brookings's U.S.-Islamic World Forum, a global conference that brings together leaders from across the U.S. and the Muslim world.

Jere Van Dyk:

Jere Van Dyk is a journalist and author. He is currently a consultant on Afghanistan, Pakistan, and al-Qaeda for CBS News. In 2008, Van Dyk was captured and imprisoned by the Taliban in the no-man's-land between Afghanistan and Pakistan. He tells the story of his 45-day ordeal in his book, [Captive](#) (2010).

In 1981, while working as a correspondent for *The New York Times*, Van Dyk lived with the Afghan *mujahideen* as they battled the Soviet Army. His articles in *The New York Times*, which included a three-part story in the paper's Sunday magazine, were nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. He later wrote [In Afghanistan](#), a book on his experiences during that journey. In 2001, Mr. Van Dyk, working as a free-lance correspondent, covered the war in Afghanistan and the murder of Daniel Pearl.

Van Dyk has written for many publications, including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *National Geographic*. He has traveled in Afghanistan and other countries in the region since the 1970s and reported on them for CBS News (both radio and television), CNN, National Public Radio, and other broadcast organizations. Jere also served as a consultant on the film, *Charlie Wilson's War*.

MODERATOR

Steve Inskeep:

Steve Inskeep is host of *Morning Edition*, the most widely heard news program in the United States. Inskeep's first full-time assignment for NPR was the 1996 presidential primary in New Hampshire. Since then, he has traveled across the nation and around the world for Morning Edition and NPR News. From Afghanistan and the hunt for Al-Qaeda suspects in Pakistan, the war in Iraq and the army bases of Kabul, to the presidential primaries, the Pentagon, the U.S. Senate and the wreckage of post-Katrina New Orleans, Steve Inskeep has interviewed presidents, warlords, authors, and musicians, as well as those who aren't in the headlines from a steelworker in Ohio to a woman living in poverty in Tehran.

Inskeep has twice been part of NPR News teams that were awarded an Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Silver Baton, once for coverage of Iraq, and once for the groundbreaking "New York Project" about race. Steve also received a 2006 Robert F. Kennedy journalism award for "The Price of African Oil," a series on conflict in Nigeria.

In 2004, Inskeep joined a team that reshaped Morning Edition. Today, Morning Edition aggressively covers breaking news and also "tries to slow down the news – to make sense of information that flies by too quickly, and to check glib statements against the facts." Although his job often requires him to deliver bad news, Inskeep looks for the humanity in hard times — and the humor. "I'm inspired," he says, "by the Langston Hughes book *Laughing to Keep from Crying*. And I'm inspired by people like the Bordelons, who've spoken with us ever since they rode out Hurricane Katrina. At the beginning, they sometimes laughed and cried in the same sentence. Laughter means you survived."

Steve has written articles for many publications, including The New York Times and The Washington Post. His forthcoming book on the world's growing urban areas, *INSTANT CITY: LIFE AND DEATH IN KARACHI*, will be published this October by Penguin Press.

MOST Resource Directors

Camille Alick, Program Director, steers MOST's overall development, oversees research projects, and manages requests from writers and producers. She also develops relationships within the entertainment community, acts as an intermediary between clients and resource experts, facilitates introductions between Industry in the U.S. and abroad, and plans and hosts special events and dialogues throughout the year.

Previously Camille worked at the Writers Guild of America West, planning events and activities for Independent film, animation, videogames and public policy. She also consulted with the Diversity Department on issues relating to the Middle East, Muslims and Islam.

Camille is a member of the Board of Directors for the Arab Film Festival, an active member of the Pacific Council on International Policy, and she currently sits on the Department of Homeland Security's "Los Angeles Roundtable."

Cynthia P. Schneider, Co-Director of MOST, is Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Cynthia teaches, publishes, and organizes initiatives in the field of cultural diplomacy with a focus on U.S. relations with the Muslim world. As a non-resident Fellow at the Brookings Institution, she leads the Arts and Culture Initiative within the Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

Cynthia writes frequently in the popular press on topics related to the arts, culture, media and international affairs, including blogs and presentations for the Huffington Post, CNN.com, and TED. She writes policy papers for Brookings and presents events and panels on arts and culture in venues from Kurdistan to Cairo.

From 1998-2001 she served as U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands, during which time she led initiatives in cultural diplomacy, biotechnology, cyber security, and education.

Michael Wolfe, Co-Director of MOST, is the author of ten books of travel, history, fiction, poetry and translation. He is President of Unity Productions Foundation, a nonprofit whose mission is peace through the media. UPF has produced eight full-length documentaries for PBS on Muslim-related themes.

In 1997, working with Ted Koppel and "ABC Nightline," Michael was the first TV journalist to report live from Mecca during the annual Hajj pilgrimage. He has published two books on the Hajj with Grove Press. In 2003, he worked with CNN International to produce a new half-hour documentary on the Hajj. This year he wrote a film script concerning the modern Hajj for IMAX. His journalism has been nominated for Peabody, Emmy, George Polk, and National Press Club Awards and he has won awards from the Society for American Travel Writers, the Academy of American Poets, and the Wilbur Prize for Best Book on a Religious Theme.

Michael has taught writing and literature at Exeter and Andover, and at the University of California, Santa Cruz. *THE LAST WORD*, his latest book, comes out from Johns Hopkins University Press in Spring, 2012.

MOST Resource

MOST Resource (www.mostresource.org) is a nonprofit research and resource provider to TV writers, researchers, showrunners and producers, of complimentary information and access to experts on anything and everything related to Islam and Muslims from Detroit to Damascus to Jakarta. **MOST** also hosts events throughout the year that bring together media professionals and Policy experts.

MOST was founded in a working alliance by Unity Productions Foundation, the Brookings Institution, and the Gallup Organization. **MOST** is located at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. Neither an advocacy group nor a promoter of any religion, **MOST**'s mission is simply to provide timely material and expertise to content creators with the hope that it will be used to create authentic media depictions of people hailing from the Muslim World. **MOST** has worked with a long and growing list of writers and others involved in television and film production, on characters and storylines concerning Muslims, Islam, and the Middle East.

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