

## MARIA RESSA: PRESS FREEDOM UNDER FIRE

July 14, 2020 at 4:00PM Hawaii

### Speaker Biographies

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**Maria RESSA**

*CEO and Executive Editor, Rappler, Manila, Philippines*

*@mariaressa*

Maria is the CEO and Executive Editor of Rappler.com, one of the leading online news organizations in the Philippines. Maria has been honored around the world for her courageous and bold work in fighting disinformation and attempts to silence the free press. In 2018, she was named among a group of journalists referred to as the "Guardians" as Time magazine's "Person of the Year", and won the prestigious Golden Pen of Freedom Award from the World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-INFRA), the Knight International Journalism Award of the International Center for Journalists, the Gwen Ifill Press Freedom Award of the Committee to Protect Journalists, the Journalist of Courage and Impact Award of East-West Center, and the IX International Press Freedom Award of University of Málaga and UNESCO, among others.

She has been a journalist in Asia for more than 30 years. She was CNN's bureau chief in Manila then Jakarta, and became CNN's lead investigative reporter focusing on terrorism in Southeast Asia. She authored two books – Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia and From Bin Laden to Facebook. In 1987, Maria co-founded independent production company, Probe. In 2005, she managed ABS-CBN News and Current affairs, the largest multi-platform news operation in the Philippines. Her work aimed to redefine journalism by combining traditional broadcast, new media and mobile phone technology for social change.



**Sheila S. CORONEL (moderator)**

*Distinguished Director, Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism,  
Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Co-founder,  
Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, New York, NY, USA  
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Sheila is academic dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. She is concurrently also director of the Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism and Stabile professor of professional practice. She began her reporting career in the Philippines and was co-founder of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism. She is the author and editor of more than a dozen books on Philippine politics and society, and on investigative reporting and freedom of information.