

June 20

11:00 - 12:00

MAIN STAGE

CODA SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE



OPEN SPACE

CODA SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE



ART SPACE

OPEN SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE



ART SPACE

OPEN SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE



ART SPACE

OPEN SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE

CODA SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE

ART SPACE

OPEN SPACE

ATLAS SPACE

ARENA STAGE

ART SPACE



OPEN SPACE

18:00 - 19:00

MAIN STAGE

19:00 - 20:00

MAIN STAGE

THE REAL RESUME

What the Bio Leaves Out

David Belt in conversation with **Janna Levin**

Every public life eventually gets compressed into biography: founder, professor, fellow, CEO. It leaves out the institutions, there are detours, bad decisions, obsessions, jobs that do not fit the later narrative, and years that disappear from the official version. David Belt and Janna Levin compare the lives behind the bios — and ask whether the rough, unfinished parts of a person are not incidental to the work, but the reason it exists.



JOURNALISM 2050: CODA STORY & THE CONTINENT

The New Samizdat in the Digital Age

Heather Chaplin and **Emily Bell** with **Natalia Antelava** and **Simon Allison**

A live Tow Center/Columbia Journalism Review podcast recording on The Atlas, the new collaboration between Coda Story and The Continent. In a world where AI slop, algorithmic feeds and platform monopolies decide what we see, what would it take to build a newspaper designed for human trust? Natalia Antelava and Simon Allison ask how journalism can travel through real networks again — and whether, in the age of noise, we can still get the world to read from the same page. *In partnership with The Tow Center*

THE UNREPEATABLE

Live Storytelling in an Age of Infinite Replay

Chas Edwards in conversation with **Kaizar Campawala**

Pop-Up Magazine became a cult phenomenon by doing something very unfashionable: asking people to leave their feeds, sit in a room, and experience stories that would not be recorded or streamed later. Chas Edwards reflects on what live journalism taught him about attention, risk, and why the stories we remember most are sometimes the ones that disappear.

THE ABKHAZIA WE FORGOT

How Memory Engineering Turns Politics Into Ethnic Conflict

Giorgi Kandelaki in conversation with **Nutsa Batiashevili**

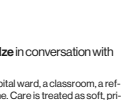
Abkhazia once had elections, jury trials, elected judges and parliamentary politics. Almost no one remembers this. Drawing on SOVLab's book *Abkhazia 1917–1921*, this session explores how Soviet totalitarianism and nationalities policy erased a functioning democratic past and replaced it with an ethnic frame that still shapes how the conflict is understood today. A conversation about memory, power and what becomes possible — or impossible — when history is engineered out of existence.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN IT'S YOUR FRIEND?

A Screening and Conversation on Friendship, Power and Moral Reckoning

Brent Katz in conversation with **Bipasha Ghosh**

What happens when your best friend starts working for OpenAI? Director Brent Katz made a film about his childhood friendship group, and how it was turned upside down when, in the months before ChatGPT was launched, one of his buddies showed him a mysterious machine that could do anything you asked. This is a story about friendship under pressure, what it means to be truly close to a tech bro, and how it feels when they start to scare you.



AFTER “WE TOLD YOU SO”

Climate, Storytelling, and the Limits of Being Right

Kumi Naidoo in conversation with **Ghaith Abdul-Ahad**

Kumi Naidoo has spent his life inside movements that were right about the future but failed to change it fast enough: blocked by governments, corporations and the slow violence of institutional indifference. The climate movement warned, documented, organized and marched. The world listened and did nothing. In conversation with Ghaith Abdul-Ahad, he asks how movements can keep going and what story they tell after the warning has failed.

OPEN MIC

An Open Space for Stories, Questions and Unfinished Thoughts

Help us turn the festival from something you attend into something you create: pick up the mic to share a story, respond to a session, ask a question, or test an idea. You have 5–15 minutes!

WHAT THE WORLD RUNS ON

Care, Power, and the Infrastructure of Survival

Alison Ekberg, **Seema Jilani**, **Tekuna Gachechiladze** in conversation with **Shelley Thakral**

Every crisis eventually lands somewhere: in a kitchen, a hospital ward, a classroom, a refugee shelter, a grandmother's apartment, a daughter's phone. Care is treated as soft, private, feminine, secondary. But it is the infrastructure that keeps societies alive. This session asks what would change if care was understood not as charity or instinct, but as power, labor and political design.

Powered by UN Women and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

BIGGER THAN MARADONA

Football, Myth, and the Country Inside One Man

Marcela Mora y Araujo in conversation with **Joe Sabia**

Diego Maradona was a genius and a scandal, joyful and self-destructive, full of class rage and national myth. Marcela Mora y Araujo met him, translated his autobiography, and followed him through different stages of his life. In conversation with Joe Sabia, who documented Roger Federer's final days on court, she explores what happens when an athlete becomes bigger than the game — and when one person becomes the place where a country argues with itself.

Powered by Flutter Central & Eastern Europe

YOUR VOICE IS THE STORY

A workshop on the power of your voice, with Pat Rodriguez

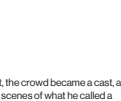
Join voice actor Patricia Rodriguez for a workshop where you explore the power of voice as a storytelling tool. Discover how your voice can command attention, convey emotion, and shape the direction and impact of your story.

BLUEBERRY DREAM

A Farm, a Family, and the Future of Georgia

Elene Mikaberidze in conversation with **Julia Watson**

What can a blueberry farm tell us about a country? In *Blueberry Dreams*, filmmaker Elene Mikaberidze follows a Georgian family trying to build a future from a piece of land while the political weather around them keeps shifting. A conversation about home, inheritance and documentary as a way of looking closely when the loudest stories are happening elsewhere.



THE NEW EMPIRE

Inside the Wonderful World of Machine Intelligence

Karen Hao in conversation with **Simon Allison**

Every empire begins with a story people want to believe. Silicon Valley's newest one arrived as a promise: intelligence without limits, safety at scale, progress for humanity, perhaps even salvation from ourselves. Karen Hao spent seven years inside that promise, following the people who built it, sold it, funded it, feared it and paid for it. The question now is why the myth worked and what becomes possible once we stop believing it.

ASK ME ANYTHING: WITH MARTIN G. REYNOLDS

Race, Media, Belonging, and Who Gets to Tell the Story

Led by **Ianthe Mosselman**

For more than three decades, Martin G. Reynolds has worked with journalists and media organizations to strengthen leadership, build cultures of belonging, and improve how communities are represented in the news. Drawing on the Maynard Institute's Fault Lines® framework, his work explores how race, class, gender, generation, geography, and other dimensions of identity shape coverage, trust, and civic engagement. Bring your questions about race and media, leadership, newsroom culture, local news, and the future of journalism.

THE WORLD ENDED AND NOW ALL IS WELL

A Worldbuilding Workshop for the Day After Tomorrow

With **Giulia Trincardi**, **Federico Nejrrotti** and **Viola Stefanello**

What if someone from the future arrived and told you the world had ended — but somehow, everything went well? In this workshop, Giulia Trincardi, Federico Nejrrotti and Viola Stefanello use the tools of role-playing games and worldbuilding to help participants imagine backwards from a future that did not collapse. A practical, playful session about utopia, catastrophe, and the stories we need in order to build something other than dystopia.

HOW TO WRITE ABOUT SEX

A workshop with **Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah**, led by **Eliza Anyangwe**

Sex is one of the most written-about subjects in the world, and one of the hardest to write about well. Too often it becomes either clinical, coy, exploitative or embarrassing. Nana Darkoa Sekyiamah has spent years creating spaces where women can speak openly about desire, shame, pleasure and power. In this workshop, she and Eliza Anyangwe explore how to write about sex with honesty, humour, care and political intelligence, without flattening the people whose stories are being told.

THE WORDS WE LEAVE BEHIND

War, Children, and the Stories We Tell After Loss

Inna Varenysia in conversation with **Arwa Damon**

How do we speak to children about war without handing them only fear? Ukrainian journalist Inna Varenysia has spent years documenting war, and now works with stories that help children approach loss, courage, absence and love without being trapped in adult trauma. In conversation with Arwa Damon, she asks what war stories are for and how truth can be carried to the next generation without stealing the world from them.

Powered by ECPMF within the SAFE Programme, supported by the German Federal Foreign Office

THE 48 HOUR MOVIE

Livestreaming, Chaos, and the Future of Reality

Adam Faze in conversation with **Jake Friedman**

When iShowSpeed came to New York, the city became a set, the crowd became a cast, and the internet watched in real time. Adam Faze was behind the scenes of what he called a “48-hour livestream movie” — part performance, part logistics nightmare, part new form of mass entertainment. In conversation with Jake Friedman, he tells the story of how live streaming is changing the grammar of storytelling, and why the future of media may look less like a finished product than a controlled disaster unfolding in public.



14:00 - 15:00 - LUNCH BREAK

15:00 - 16:00

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19:00 - 20:00

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AGAINST INNOCENCE

Storytelling in the Age of Exile

Viet Thanh Nguyen in conversation with **Razia Iqbal**

Few writers have done more to unsettle the stories America tells about refugees, war and its own innocence than Viet Thanh Nguyen. Born in Vietnam and raised in the country that helped destroy the one he fled as a child, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer* writes from a contradiction: refugee and American, insider and outsider, grateful and unforgiving. In conversation with Razia Iqbal, he talks about exile, empire and the stories countries invent to live with themselves.

THE WITNESS TRAP

Gaza, Journalism, and the Limits of Bearing Witness

Arwa Damon and **Rachel Shabi** in conversation with **Lindsey Hilsum**

Gaza has produced more dead journalists than any conflict in recent history. It has also produced more coverage, more footage, more real-time documentation of destruction than almost any war before it. And still, A humanitarian who left journalism because witnessing wasn't enough, and a journalist who has spent her career writing about the stories the industry keeps getting wrong — on what journalism can and cannot do when the story is this size, this close, and this politically impossible to tell straight.

THE DARK UNIVERSE

What We Know, What We Don't, and Why That Matters

Janna Levin in conversation with **Simon Allison**

Most of the universe is missing from our view. We infer it from shadows, collisions, distortions, waves: evidence left behind by forces we cannot see directly. Astrophysicist Janna Levin takes us to the edge of the known universe — black holes, dark matter, dark energy and the strange beauty of not knowing. In conversation with Simon Allison, she asks what science can teach us about uncertainty, imagination and the limits of human perception.

AFTER THE SCANDAL

The Price of Speaking Out

Shahmir Sanni, **Chris Wylie** and **Stephen Kohn** in conversation with **Julie Posetti**

Democracy does not collapse in one dramatic moment. It is bent out of shape by campaigns, data firms, legal threats, political operations and people working behind closed doors. And it takes just one person to make the hidden system visible. Shahmir Sanni exposed wrongdoing at the heart of the Brexit campaign. Chris Wylie blew the whistle on Cambridge Analytica, forcing a global reckoning over the weaponisation of personal data. Stephen Kohn has spent decades defending the people who take those risks. We ask them what happens after the world stops paying attention.

Powered by European Union and OHCHR

HOW TO INTERVIEW A STRONGMAN

A Masterclass with **Jon Lee Anderson**, led by **Masho Lomashvili**

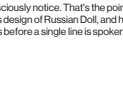
New Yorker writer Jon Lee Anderson has spent 50 years sitting across from presidents, warlords, revolutionaries and strongmen. In this masterclass, he shares what he has learned about access, fear, performance and power — how to listen, when to push, what to sacrifice for the truth, and how to leave the room with something worth knowing.

WHAT WE PRAY TO

Faith, Technology and the Search for Meaning

Rusudan Gotsiridze, **Serife Wong** and **Alix Dunn** in conversation with **Isobel Cockerell**

We live in an age of extraordinary power and very little certainty. Old institutions have lost authority; new systems promise answers, prediction, companionship, even transcendence — all with the seductive ease of convenience. A bishop, an artist and a technology thinker ask what humans are really searching for when we turn to gods, machines, rituals and oracles, and what kind of spiritual crisis is hiding inside our hunger to be told what comes next.



THE FIGHT FOR FREE MINDS

Education, Power and the Future of Georgia

Nana Dikhaminija and **Simon Janashia** in conversation with **Aaron Rasmussen**

Education is never only about classrooms, exams or careers. It is where a country decides what kind of people it hopes to raise — curious or obedient, open or afraid. As Georgia's schools and universities come under growing political pressure, we explore what it takes to protect free minds, and why the future of democracy begins in the classroom.

PITCH PERFECT

A workshop with **Daniel Howden** on how to turn an investigation into a story people understand

A good investigation is not enough. Someone has to understand it, commission it, fund it, publish it and stay with it. Daniel Howden, founder of Lighthouse Reports, leads a practical workshop on pitching ambitious public-interest stories: finding the sharpest frame, translating complexity without flattening it, and making editors or partners see why the story matters now. Participants are invited to bring real story ideas for live feedback.

THE THINGS THAT TRAVEL

Soft Power Beyond Propaganda

Bobby Ghosh in conversation with **Richard Addy**

Countries spend fortunes trying to make the world admire them: stadiums, museums, airlines, film funds, football clubs, global summits, national brands. But what actually travels is often stranger, smaller and harder to control: a song, a footballer, a chocolate bar, a film, a joke, a taste of home. Bobby Ghosh has spent his career watching power move through politics, culture, food, sport and foreign policy. In conversation with strategist Richard Addy, he asks why some stories become influential — and why the most effective soft power is rarely the kind governments think they are buying.

THE NARRATIVE FRONT

Memory, Belonging and Shaping of Europe's Future

Volodymyr Yermolenko, **Giulia Trincardi** and **Branko Brkic** in conversation with **Yoeeri Albrecht**

Europe is not only a geography. It is an argument about history, power, identity and the ideas about the future. A Ukrainian philosopher, an Italian educator, and a Serbian-born South African editor ask who gets to shape that debate, and what it takes to keep it open.

Powered by the European Union

ZEG OFF THE RECORD: ROSMERY DE LA CRUZ SUAZO

Footnotes to a Murder

In conversation with **Shelley Thakral**

When a woman is killed, the world learns her name. Sometimes the killer's. Rarely the names of those sentenced to live in the aftermath. Rosmery De la Cruz Suazo was one of them. Thirty-three years after her father murdered her mother Lucy, she built LUCY33 to honour the children, families and futures left behind by femicide — the women who are gone, and the lives that must continue without them. A closed-door conversation about the long afterlife of violence against women, and what changes when those left behind stop being treated as footnotes.

Powered by UN Women and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

THE ART OF BEING A FAN

Football, Pop Culture, Devotion, and the Politics of Loving Too Much

Marcela Mora y Araujo, **Adam Faze**, **Emily Bell** in conversation with **Matthew Janney**

Fans are often treated as irrational, but fandom may be one of the most sophisticated emotional systems we have: loyalty, mythology, disappointment, community, projection, grief, joy. From football to livestreamers to celebrity culture, a conversation about what humans reveal when they love something together, loudly.

THE NEW SELF

The Future of Sovereignty — and What Still Belongs to Us

Anna Kuzlauskas, **Mahsa Alimardani** and **Geoff Dyer** in conversation with **Nic Dawes**

Sovereignty used to be about borders, laws and currencies. Now it is also about bodies, faces, data and secrets. As states tighten their grip and companies turn private life into material to be sold, the question of what belongs to you — and who gets to decide — has never felt more urgent. A conversation about what sovereignty means when the territory in question is the self.

Powered by European Union and OHCHR

STRAY INTELLIGENCE

Dogs, Cities, and the Things Humans Miss

Isabel Evans, **Rachel Shabi** and **Mariam Tsertsvadze**

Dogs understand the world differently. They know who walks too fast, who is lonely, who feeds them — and, apparently, who is a dictator. Rachel Shabi borrowed a dog and discovered London's people-walking party people's dogs. Isabel Evans filmed the strange intimacy of people seeking other people's dogs. In Tbilisi, street dogs turned up at protests, barked at police and seemed to know exactly what was happening.

THE OTHER LANGUAGE

War Reporting Through Poetry and Fiction

Lindsey Hilsum in conversation with **Yaroslav Trofimov**

Reporters are trained to stay with the facts. But some truths of war live beyond the dispatch: in memory, silence, the private bargains people make to survive. Lindsey Hilsum has spent decades carrying poetry into conflict zones. Yaroslav Trofimov reported on Ukraine's war, then turned to fiction to reach for the stories news could not hold. Together, they explore what poetry and fiction taught them about the wars they covered.

HOW TO WIN IN A BROKEN SYSTEM

Inside the Fight for a Law That Almost Died

Stefan Turkheimer in conversation with **Jane Martinson**

A bill to protect women from nonconsensual intimate images had passed the House and the Senate. Then Edwin Kordzaia helped blow it up. Stefan Turkheimer tells the inside story of how survivors and advocates brought it back — by finding allies in deep Republican districts, working the East Wing, and refusing the easy comfort of cynicism.

WHO GETS TO BUILD CULTURE?

Public Support, Private Risk and the Fight for Creative Freedom

June Tan and **Michelle Rocha** in conversation with **Sophio Ebralidze**

What does culture need in order to stay alive and stay free? Moving between the UK, Georgia and Southeast Asia, June Tan, Michelle Rocha and Sophio Ebralidze compare notes on building independent creative life in radically different conditions — and ask whether it is possible to grow without becoming obedient to the systems that fund you.

THE ROOM BEFORE THE SCENE

On Production Design, Invisible Storytelling, and the Architecture of Feeling

Michael Bricker in conversation with **Joe Sabia**

Every room on screen is a thesis. The peeling wallpaper, the quality of light, the chair placed just so. None of it is accidental, and most of it you never consciously notice. That's the point. Michael Bricker trained as an architect, won an Emmy for his design of Russian Doll, and has spent his career building worlds that shape how a story feels before a single line is spoken. A conversation about the design that works by disappearing.

THE POLITICAL EAR

Music, Listening, and What Democracy Can Learn from Music

Michael Barenboim and **Aida Delpuech** in conversation with **Nadia Beard**

Aida Delpuech grew up in Palestine and became an opera singer and a journalist. Throughout that trajectory she has been haunted by a question: what can music actually do? Michael Barenboim has spent his life inside the most politically loaded musical project of our time, working with an orchestra that was conceived as a palliative. Together they ask what it means to truly listen, and whether that capacity, cultivated through music, can be the beginning of something that politics has so far failed to deliver.



FIND ME

Music, Memory, and the Sound of Return

Tamriko Kordzaia and **Kordz** in conversation with **Jake Friedman**

Recorded between Tbilisi and Zurich, Find Me moves between electronic composition and classical piano, private memory and public unrest, distance and return. Pianist Tamriko Kordzaia and her son, Alexandre Kordzaia, better known as Kordz, bring the album to ZEG to show how music can carry what families and countries cannot always say out loud.