

9/11: A Turning Point

Panelist Bios

LOWELL BERGMAN

Lowell Bergman is the Emeritus Reva and David Logan Distinguished Chair in Investigative Reporting at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley. He founded its Investigative Reporting Program and developed its ability to produce investigative documentaries and print series that appeared on PBS' Frontline and The New York Times, KQED and newspapers and magazines throughout California.

Bergman taught a seminar at the Graduate School of Journalism for almost three decades before he retired in 2019 from the University. He is currently in his fifth decade in journalism after being a reporter and producer for ABC and CBS News' magazine program *60 Minutes*.



Retiring from the chair in 2019, he continues as a member of the board of Investigative Studios, a unique nonprofit production company which he founded in 2017 and continues the tradition of creating original public interest journalism. His work has been honored with multiple Emmys, duPonts and Peabodys.

JANE FERGUSON

Jane Ferguson is a Polk, Emmy and DuPont award-winning special correspondent for PBS NewsHour, where she covers the Middle East and Africa, as well as global stories from war zones to natural disasters and major diplomatic issues. Over the last decade she has been frequently on assignment for long periods in Afghanistan. She recently returned from Kabul, where her reporting shed light on the plight of Afghans attempting to flee the Taliban and the efforts of U.S. servicemembers attempting to secure visas for those coworkers. She is also a contributor for the New Yorker.



In addition to her time with PBS, Ferguson was a McGraw Professor of Writing at Princeton University ('20-'21), an International Correspondent for Al Jazeera English ('11-'15) and a Roving Correspondent for CNN International ('09-'11).

She is planning to return to Kabul soon after our event.

BRIAN KNAPPENBERGER

Brian Knappenberger is the director and an executive producer of the five part Netflix series *Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror*. In a co-production with Investigative Studios and UC Berkeley's Investigative Reporting Program, he directed the six part Netflix series, *The Trials of Gabriel Fernandez*. Both series quickly gained a large worldwide audience ranking for weeks in the top ten of Netflix offerings for weeks at a time with an estimated tens of millions of viewers.

Other documentaries Knappenberger has produced include *Church and the Fourth Estate* (2020), *Nobody Speak: Trials of the Free Press* (2017), and *The Internet's Own Boy: The Story of Aaron Swartz* (2014). Knappenberger has directed and executive produced numerous other documentaries for the Discovery Channel, Bloomberg, and PBS, including PBS' *Ice Warriors: USA Sled Hockey*. He owns and operates Luminant Media, a Los Angeles based production and post-production company.



FAWZIA KOOFI

Fawzia Koofi is an Afghan politician and women's rights activist featured in the fifth and final episode of Turning Point. Koofi served as the deputy and representative of the people of Badakhshan province in the 15th term of Wolesi Jirga (Parliament). She is the leader of Movement of Change for Afghanistan Party and is the first woman to lead a political party in Afghanistan. She also established a home school for girls deprived of education during the Taliban regime and has been in charge of Child Protection at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for six years.

Since 2010, when she served in an executive capacity in the Afghan Congress, Koofi became the repeated target of assassination attempts by the Taliban and others. Seriously wounded in 2020, she not only survived but became the first woman delegate of the Afghan government in their negotiations in Doha with the Taliban. Ms. Koofi and her two daughters managed to escape to Qatar soon after the Taliban seized Kabul.

Koofi has been a prominent figure in the field of women's rights in Afghanistan. In the Afghan Congress she enacted protective laws for women and children. Most important was the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Law on the Protection of Children in Afghanistan. She holds a bachelor's degree in law and political science from Kabul University and a master's degree in international relations and human rights from the University of Diplomacy in Geneva.



JANET NAPOLITANO

Janet Napolitano is a Professor of Public Policy and Director of the new Center for Security in Politics at the University of California, Berkeley. A distinguished public servant, Napolitano served as the president of the University of California from 2013 to 2020, as the US Secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013, as Governor of Arizona from 2003 to 2009, as Attorney General of Arizona from 1998 to 2003, and as US Attorney for the District of Arizona from 1993 to 1997.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, she led the nation's efforts to prevent terrorist attacks, secure its borders, respond to natural disasters, and build domestic resiliency. During her time as Secretary, she also spearheaded the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative. She was the first woman and is to date the longest-serving Secretary of Homeland Security.



MO NAQVI

Mohammed Ali Naqvi is an internationally celebrated filmmaker whose work has won over twenty-five prestigious awards and honours. He is an executive producer for the Netflix series Turning Point: 9/11 and the War on Terror and is known for documentaries which shed light on the socio-political conditions of Pakistan.

Naqvi's films have been showcased in film festivals including Toronto, Tribeca, Berlin, IDFA, Full Frame and AFI and venues including the Museum of Modern Art and the United Nations in New York. Some of his notable films include Insha'Allah Democracy (2017), Among the Believers (2015), Shame (2007), and Terror's Children (2003).



MATT POTTINGER

Matt Pottinger served for four years at the White House in senior positions on the National Security Council staff, as senior director for Asia and then from 2019 to 2021 as Deputy National Security Advisor. Pottinger is credited with formulating and executing Trump Administration policy toward China and the Indo-Pacific region.

Before his time in the White House, Pottinger served as a US Marine officer in two combat deployments to Afghanistan and one to Iraq. His work as an intelligence officer came to the attention of the U.S. military commanders in Afghanistan, which led to their reformulation of their approach to the conduct of the war.

Pottinger has been Asia-focused since his college days, which led to him becoming a reporter and correspondent for Reuters and then the Wall Street Journal. He joined the Marine Corps in 2005 at the age of 31 until 2011 when he entered the world of risk consultancy and research for a New York investment fund. He was recruited into the White House by President Donald Trump's first National Security Advisor, ret. Lt. General Michael Flynn, who worked with Pottinger in Afghanistan.



JOHN SOPKO

John F. Sopko is the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction [SIGAR], a governmental office created by Congress in 2008 to identify waste, fraud and abuse in the United States' reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. He brings more than 30 years of experience to the position, including time spent as a prosecutor, congressional counsel and a senior federal government advisor.

In his more recent roles with Congress, Sopko served as Chief Counsel for Oversight and Investigations for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, where he oversaw investigations focused on matters regulated by agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration, the Department of Energy and the Federal Communications Commission, to name a few. Sopko has also served as General Counsel and Chief Oversight Counsel for the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, where he oversaw investigations related to counter-terrorism and homeland security.



SIGAR issued regular reports from 2009 until August of this year. Sopko and his team predicted that the Afghan government and army could not sustain itself once the U.S. and NATO pulled out. Of the over \$140 billion in reconstruction funding he monitored at least 30%, he concluded, disappeared to fraud and waste.

FRAN TOWNSEND

Fran Townsend was appointed as assistant to President George W. Bush for homeland security in 2004 and counterterrorism and chaired the Homeland Security Council. She also served as deputy national security advisor for combating terrorism from May 2003 to May 2004. Townsend spent thirteen years at the U.S. Department of Justice under the administrations of President George H. W. Bush, President Bill Clinton, and President George W. Bush.



Townsend currently serves as the Chief Compliance Officer for the software company Activision-Blizzard. Prior to her time at Activision Blizzard, Townsend spent 10 years as vice chairman, general counsel and chief administrative officer at MacAndrews & Forbes, Inc., where she dealt with internal financial, legal and personnel issues.

DALE WATSON

Dale L. Watson is the former executive assistant director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Counterterrorism Division ('99-'02). In that position, he oversaw the investigation of both the September 11 terrorist attacks and the deadly anthrax mailings, as well as the refocusing and re-engineering of the FBI's counterterrorism program.

Watson's tenure with the bureau spans more than 24 years, during which time he served as an assistant director for the Counterterrorism Division when it was created in 1999. He had responsibility for overall direction and management of the international and domestic terrorism programs. After failing to get the incoming Bush Administration to approve recommendations for expanding the counter terrorism program prior to 9/11, Watson wound up in the middle of managing the FBI's response to 9/11.

