



The  
University  
Of  
Sheffield.

# Journalism masterclasses

2021-2022 Semester 2

# Welcome to our journalism masterclasses for 2021-22.

**T**he masterclasses comprise a programme of weekly talks from established journalists – many of whom learned their craft right here in the Department of Journalism Studies at Sheffield – and other figures with unique and valuable perspectives on the media.

They represent a place where the academy welcomes key players from the media industries, and students who engage in journalism practice and study learn at first-hand about their preoccupations, concerns and experiences. Those who report, present, manage, regulate or simply reflect on the rapidly changing media world give an insight into the industries our students aspire to join.

We regard the masterclasses as an essential element of your applied journalism knowledge, and **students taking BA Journalism Studies and MA Journalism are expected to attend.** Students on other degree programmes are also very welcome to join.

## How to take part

For the 2021-22 academic year the masterclasses will take place online. They're scheduled for 12 noon on Tuesdays throughout term time. We'll email you a link to join shortly before each session begins.

We encourage students to engage with the masterclasses using social media. Please use hashtag **#jusmasterclass** and feel free to tag the department (@sheffjournalism on Twitter, @sheffjournalism on Instagram).



**Week 1**  
**Tuesday 8 February**

## **Mark Nicholls**

Journalist at the Eastern Daily Press

**M**ark Nicholls is an award-winning journalist and writer with more than 30 years experience in the media at regional and national level.

He has held a wide range of writing and newsroom management roles including news/content editor, deputy editor and acting editor of an evening newspaper before returning to feature writing and reporting with the Eastern Daily Press.

In recent years he has covered areas as diverse as health, business and defence including operating in war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq, is now a freelance author health and travel journalist.

# Christine Talbot

**Multi-award-winning television presenter and journalist**

**C**hristine Talbot is a multi award-winning television presenter and journalist and has been one of the most recognizable faces and voices in the ITV Yorkshire region for almost three decades, fronting the evening news programme Calendar, 18 of those as alongside Duncan Wood, making them the longest serving duo in ITV regional news. She started her career in local newspapers, before moving to the BBC in the Northwest as a reporter and presenter.

In addition to news, Christine has fronted many other programmes in the Yorkshire region, including the magazine show Tonight and one of the first lifestyle, health and beauty digital channels Wellbeing often on air for three hours live at a time. She has travelled the world in her job, been involved in reporting many of the major stories of the region and interviewed everyone from Prime Ministers and celebrities to those people with so-called “ordinary” lives, but often with extraordinary stories to tell. She recently stepped down from Calendar and is focusing on various other projects, including TV, as well as continuing to host events across the country.





Week 3  
Tuesday 22 February

Alistair McGowen  
BBC Sports News

**A**listair McGowen has spent the majority of his career working for the BBC as a sports journalist, based in London and Manchester. He has worked for BBC Sport website, Radio 5 live, Match of the Day, Football Focus, and Children's BBC, and reported from the Olympics, as well as several football tournaments.

James began his career at Radio City in Liverpool, which started as a placement while he was still Journalism at Liverpool John Moores University.

He currently works for the BBC's Sports News, meaning he still gets to go out to report on football matches and dabble in transfer news, but also tackles meatier subjects such as football's dementia crisis or the geo-political fallout from the Saudi Arabian takeover of Newcastle United.

**Week 4**  
**Tuesday 01 March**

**Jill Foster**  
**Freelance Journalist**

**J**ill Foster is a freelance feature writer and editor. She is also co-founder of FeatureMe! UK, a Facebook group that helps journalists find case studies for stories. Set up in 2012 with her colleague Sadie Nicholas, FeatureMe! UK now has 20,000 followers and members have appeared in hundreds of stories in the national press.

Jill trained at City University in the late 1990s after winning a scholarship with Cosmopolitan magazine. After graduation, she worked on the magazine for several months before becoming a feature writer at the Daily Mirror under the editorship of Piers Morgan.



There, she helped cover a variety of stories - from interviews with soap stars to the terror attacks on 9/11. In 2004 she became Associate Editor of Femail, at the Daily Mail which saw her move from a writing to a commissioning role. During her three years, she worked with writers including Fay Weldon, Marion Keyes, Amanda Platell and Julie Burchill.

Jill became freelance in 2008 and now works for several outlets including the Daily Mail, The Telegraph, Yahoo UK and Sainsbury's magazine. She helped write three books with Jane Tomlinson, the cancer sufferer who raised millions by competing in endurance events across the globe. Jill lives in Halifax, West Yorkshire with her husband and nine-year-old identical twin daughters.

Week 5  
Tuesday 08 March

Adeel Shah

International Press and  
Media Office

**A**deel Shah is a British Imam and is currently working with the International Press and Media Office of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community. Adeel promotes the good work carried out by the Muslim community and has dedicated his life to humanity after completing a seven year course in modern languages and theology.

He frequently gives speeches at schools and universities, as well as appearing on TV and articles have appeared across the media about the charitable work he carries out.







Week 6  
Tuesday 15 March

## Gemma Aldridge

Journalist and Editor at  
Reach PLC

**G**emma Aldridge has been a journalist for 15 years, and is in her tenth year at Reach PLC. Currently Editor of the Sunday Mirror and The People, she previously worked as Head of Features, Assistant Editor and Deputy Editor of the Daily and Sunday Mirror after joining the company as a reporter in the features team in 2012. Prior to working in national newspapers, she worked at regional titles, press agencies and a weekly women's magazine. She worked on her student newspaper and radio station while she was at university and now mentors junior journalists through Women In Journalism's volunteer scheme.



Week 7  
Tuesday 22 March

## Minreet Kaur

**Journalist and reporter**

**M**inreet Kaur is an award winning journalist and reporter. She is the daughter of the famous Skipping Sikh MBE and is the person who inspired him to start skipping during the COVID-19 lockdown. Minreet is particularly interested in stories from the BAME communities, stating that we don't hear from them as much as we should.

In her spare time, Minreet is also a freelance henna artist and loves different cultures and community stories. She enjoys travelling and staying active and has a real passion for human stories. She's also just qualified as a swimming teacher.





**Week 8**  
**Tuesday 29 March**

## **Miriam Walker-Khan**

**Sports reporter and writer**

**M**iriam Walker-Khan graduated from the University of Sheffield MA Broadcast course in 2018 and is now a sports reporter and writer.

She has worked for BBC Sport News, World Service Sport, Match of the Day, Football Focus and Premier League Productions, and has written for gal-dem, SEASON zine and the Guardian.

Miriam was the Sport trainee on the BBC's Journalism Trainee Scheme in 2018 and after getting a job at BBC Sport TV News, went freelance in 2019.



**Week 9**  
**Tuesday 26 April**

**Jess Davis**

**Digital writer at Hearst Magazines**

**J**ess Davis always knew she wanted to work in fashion and assumed she would eventually secure a job on a print publication, but following several internships at Cosmopolitan, Marie Claire and Harper's Bazaar whilst studying for her degree in Journalism at the University of Sheffield, Jess realised she was more suited to digital.

After graduating in 2017, Jess secured an internship at Hearst Magazines, as part of a pilot scheme, which has now launched in China. Four years later Jess is now their digital writer, working on various pieces from sustainable fashion to personal features, as well as writing freelance pieces in print titles.

Jess credits studying at Sheffield to give her the confidence she needed to push herself further and apply for the big names.

**T**anya Arnold is an experienced sports reporter and presenter at both regional and network level. She's the sports reporter and presenter for the regional news in Yorkshire, BBC Look North. For

BBC Sport she works as pitch-side reporter and presenter on the Rugby League coverage which has included the Challenge Cup and the Rugby League World Cup.

Since 2012 she's presented the weekly regional and network Rugby League highlights programme, the Super League Show.

Tanya has also presented sport for Breakfast News and the News Channel. Among the other career highlights she covered the 2012 and 2016 Olympics, the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. She also presents and reports for Radio 5 Live.

**Week 10**  
**Tuesday 03 May**

**Tanya Arnold**

**BBC Sports Reporter and presenter**



Week 11  
Tuesday 10 May

James Vincent

BBC Yorkshire's Political Editor

**J**ames Vincent began his journalism career by asking for a couple of weeks work experience. That led to a bit more, then a bit more and then a permanent job at his local radio station. He got his first job in the BBC at Radio Sheffield, covering Doncaster. When he moved to become their Political Reporter he was working on radio, TV and online. During his years as a video journalist for BBC Look North he won Television Journalist of the Year in the Yorkshire Media Awards.

When the 2017 general election was called he was asked to help out with the programme's political coverage and has basically not stopped since then, becoming Political Editor in 2018. With a mixture of being in the studio, on the road and at home, James has been a familiar face explaining Brexit, changes in Prime Minister and the pandemic. He also helped set up and present the political podcast, Yorkshirecast, during the pandemic - which involved a lot of wires at home. Next year James will have been a journalist for 20 years and frankly that's a little scary for him.



#jusmasterclass