



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Shorenstein Center Welcomes Leaders in Journalism, Politics, Digital Innovation and Scholarship for Fall 2011**

**CAMBRIDGE, MA** — The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy, located at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, is pleased to announce their Fall Fellows.

"This semester's group of Fellows is truly dazzling, with superb people at the cutting edge of politics, journalism, and scholarship—and, with Vivek Kundra—perhaps the top person in the nation to illuminate where all these disciplines meet digital technology," said Alex S. Jones, director of the Shorenstein Center.

Five Shorenstein Fellows will spend the semester researching and writing a paper, and interacting with students and members of the Harvard community.

- **Neal Gabler** is an author, cultural historian, television commentator, and teacher. He is the author of a number of best-selling and prize-winning books, including *An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood* and *Winchell: Gossip, Power and the Culture of Celebrity*. Gabler's project involves studying Senator Edward M. Kennedy's press coverage over time, as part of a biography he is writing.
- **Vivek Kundra** served as the first United States Chief Information Officer. Prior to joining the Obama administration, he served in Mayor Fenty's cabinet as the CTO for the District of Columbia and in Governor Kaine's cabinet as Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Technology for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Kundra's research will focus on the implications of digital media and technology on governance. He is a joint Fellow at the Shorenstein Center and Harvard's Berkman Center on the Internet and Society.
- **Renée Loth** is a Goldsmith Fellow at the Shorenstein Center. She is a columnist at *The Boston Globe* and is the paper's former editorial page editor, political editor, and reporter. Ms Loth is a regular contributor to local and national news panels, and is vice-chair of the board of PEN-New England. Loth's research at the Shorenstein Center will focus on news literacy.
- **Frederick "Fritz" Mayer** is an associate professor of public policy studies and political science at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy. He is the author of *Interpreting NAFTA: The Art and Science of Political Analysis*. His research at the Shorenstein Center will focus on the "The Drama of Climate Change" and how news coverage influenced public opinion.
- **Mark McKinnon** is a Reidy Fellow at the Shorenstein Center. He is a longtime communications strategist for causes, companies and candidates, including President George W. Bush, Senator John McCain, Governor Ann Richards, and Bono. He is a columnist for *The Daily Beast*; Vice Chairman of Hill & Knowlton and Public Strategies, and President of Maverick Media. McKinnon's research will focus on how the press picks winners and losers.

**Gina Glantz** is an adjunct lecturer in public policy (Fall 2011). She will be teaching a module (half-course) at the Kennedy School on "Organizing for Power: Using Technology to Translate Passion into Policy." She has worked as a campaign manager, field director, and political consultant at the congressional, state and presidential level. She also served as senior advisor to President Andrew Stern of the Service Employees International Union.

The Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy is a Harvard research center dedicated to exploring the intersection of press, politics and public policy in theory and practice. The Center strives to bridge the gap between journalists and scholars and, increasingly, between them and the public. More information about the Center is available at [www.shorensteincenter.org](http://www.shorensteincenter.org).