



# Speaker Biographies

December 5 - 12, 2026

[www.nationcruise.com](http://www.nationcruise.com)



### Katrina vanden Heuvel

Katrina vanden Heuvel is editorial director and publisher of *The Nation*. She served as editor of the magazine from 1995 to 2019.

She writes a weekly column for *The Washington Post*.

A frequent commentator on US and international politics for ABC, MSNBC, CNN, and PBS, her articles have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Los Angeles Times* and *The Boston Globe*. Vanden Heuvel is also the author of several books, including *The Change I Believe In: Fighting for*

*Progress in The Age of Obama*, and co-author (with Stephen F. Cohen) of *Voices of Glasnost: Interviews with Gorbachev's Reformers*.

Vanden Heuvel has been recognized for her journalism and public service by organizations such as Planned Parenthood, the National Women's Political Caucus, the New York Civil Liberties Union, the Center for Community Change, the Norman Mailer Center, the Eleanor Roosevelt Center at Val-Kill, American Rights at Work, Progressive Congress, and more. During her tenure, *The Nation*'s journalism has been recognized for excellence by the National Magazine Awards, the Society of Professional Journalists, the Maggie Awards, GLAAD, and the National Association of Black Journalists, among others.

Vanden Heuvel serves on the boards of the Progressive Caucus Center, the Institute for Policy Studies, Type Media Center, the Sidney Hillman Media Foundation, the American Committee for US-Russian Accord, Inequality Media, Brave New Films, the Osborne Association, Research to Prevent Blindness, the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute, and the Four Freedoms Park Conservancy. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Century Association.

Vanden Heuvel is a summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University, and she lives in New York City.



### Sasha Abramsky

Sasha Abramsky is a widely published freelance journalist and book author. He writes regularly for *The Nation* magazine, and his work has also been published in the *New Yorker* online, the *American Prospect*, *Salon*, *Slate*, *Mother Jones*, *Rolling Stone*, *New York Magazine*, the *Village Voice*, the *LA Weekly*, *Sacramento Magazine*, *Sacramento News & Review*, London's *The Guardian*, the *Observer*, the *Sunday Telegraph*, and many other publications. He is the author of seven books, including three on the criminal justice system, one on hunger in America -- titled *Breadline USA* -- and a biography of President Obama, titled *Inside Obama's Brain*.

Abramsky's 2013 book *The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives* was listed by the *New York*

*Times* as amongst the 100 Notable Books of the Year. His 2015 book *The House of Twenty Thousand Books* was listed by *Kirkus Reviews* as amongst the year's best non-fiction books. Abramsky is a senior fellow at the Demos think tank, and a part-time lecture in the University Writing Program at UC Davis. He lectures widely at venues around the country. Abramsky currently lives in Sacramento with his wife and two children.

### Christina Greer

Christina Greer is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Fordham University - Lincoln Center (Manhattan) campus. Her research and teaching focus on American politics, Black ethnic politics, campaigns and elections, and public opinion. Prof. Greer's book *Black Ethnics: Race, Immigration, and the Pursuit of the American Dream* (Oxford University Press) investigates the increasingly ethnically diverse black populations in the US from Africa and the Caribbean. She finds that both ethnicity and a shared racial identity matter and also affect the policy choices and preferences for black groups. Professor Greer is currently working on a manuscript detailing the political contributions of Barbara Jordan, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Stacey Abrams.



She recently co-edited *Black Politics in Transition*, which explores gentrification, suburbanization, and immigration of Blacks in America.

She is a member of the board of The Tenement Museum in NYC, The Mark Twain House in Hartford, CT, Community Change in Washington, DC, and serves on the Advisory Board at Tufts University in Medford, MA.

She is a frequent political commentator on several media outlets, primarily MSNBC, WNYC, and NY1, and is often quoted in media outlets such as the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, and the AP. She is the co-host of the New York centered podcast FAQ-NYC, is a political analyst and host of podcast The Blackest Questions at thegrio.com, is a frequent author and narrator for the TedEd educational series, and also writes a weekly column for *The Amsterdam News*, one of the oldest black newspapers in the U.S.

Prof. Greer received her BA from Tufts University and her MA, MPhil, and PhD in Political Science from Columbia University.

### **Jason Johnson**

Jason Johnson is a professor, writer, podcaster, host and political analyst for MSNOW. He is a full professor at the School of Global Journalism and Communication at Morgan State University. He's known for his wit, insight and ability to blend pop culture and politics in a way that makes his analysis accessible to audiences of all kinds. Johnson's writing has appeared in the Grio, the New York Daily News, Huffington Post and the Eisner Award Winning comic series "Bitter Root". His research into campaign politics has led him around the world from the U.K. to South Africa and the Philippines and he's provided political and cultural commentary for outlets on 4 continents. He received his undergraduate degree in government at the University of Virginia and his PhD in political science from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. When he's not providing political analysis or speaking he enjoys nature, writing, reading comics and is a long time Seattle Seahawks fan.





### Elie Mystal

Elie Mystal is *The Nation*'s Justice Correspondent—covering the courts, the criminal justice system, and politics—and the force behind the magazine's monthly column, "Objection!" He is also an Alfred Knobler Fellow at the Type Media Center.

Elie is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, a former associate at Debevoise & Plimpton, and a lifelong New York Mets fan. One of those things is not like the others. Prior to joining *The Nation*, Mystal was the executive editor of Above the Law. He's a frequent guest on MSNBC and Sirius XM. He will resist. He can be followed @ElieNYC.

### John Nichols

John Nichols, a pioneering political blogger, has written the Online Beat since 1999. His posts have been circulated internationally, quoted in numerous books and mentioned in debates on the floor of Congress.

Nichols writes about politics for *The Nation* magazine as its Washington correspondent. He is a contributing writer for *The Progressive* and *In These Times* and the associate editor of the *Capital Times*, the daily newspaper in Madison, Wisconsin. His articles have appeared in the *New York Times*, *Chicago Tribune* and dozens of other newspapers.

Nichols is a frequent guest on radio and television programs as a commentator on politics and media issues. He was featured in Robert Greenwald's documentary, "Outfoxed," and in the documentaries Joan Sekler's "Unprecedented," Matt Kohn's "Call It Democracy" and Robert Pappas's "Orwell Rolls in his Grave." The keynote speaker at the 2004 Congress of the International Federation of Journalists in Athens, Nichols has been a featured presenter at conventions, conferences and public forums on media issues sponsored by the Federal Communications Commission, the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Consumers International, the Future of Music Coalition, the AFL-CIO, the Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Newspaper Guild [CWA] and dozens of other organizations.



Nichols is the author of *The Genius of Impeachment* (The New Press); a critically acclaimed analysis of the Florida recount fight of 2000, *Jews for Buchanan* (The New Press); and a best-selling biography of Vice President Dick Cheney, *Dick: The Man Who is President* (The New Press), which has recently been published in French and Arabic. He edited *Against the Beast: A Documentary History of American Opposition to Empire* (Nation Books), of which historian Howard Zinn said: "At exactly the time when we need it most, John Nichols gives us a special gift--a collection of writings, speeches, poems, and songs from throughout American history--that reminds us that our revulsion to war and empire has a long and noble tradition in this country."

With Robert W. McChesney, Nichols has co-authored the books *It's the Media, Stupid!* (Seven Stories), *Our Media, Not Theirs* (Seven Stories), *Tragedy and Farce: How the American Media Sell Wars, Spin Elections, and Destroy Democracy* (The New Press) and, most recently, *The Death and Life of American Journalism* (Nation Books). McChesney and Nichols are the co-founders of Free Press, the nation's media-reform network, which organized the 2003 and 2005 National Conferences on Media Reform.

Of Nichols, author Gore Vidal says: "Of all the giant slayers now afoot in the great American desert, John Nichols's sword is the sharpest."



### Bhaskar Sunkara

Bhaskar Sunkara is the president of The Nation and the author of *The Socialist Manifesto: The Case for Radical Politics in an Era of Extreme Inequality*. Sunkara founded Jacobin magazine in 2010.

## Joan Walsh

Joan Walsh is a national affairs correspondent for *The Nation* and the author of *What's the Matter With White People? Finding Our Way in the Next America*. *Salon's* first news editor, Walsh served as editor in chief for six years. She is a frequent guest on MSNBC and CNN, and has contributed to publications ranging from *Vogue* to *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



## David Zirin



Named one of UTNE Reader's 50 Visionaries Who Are Changing Our World and winner of the 2015 New York Press Club Award for Sports Journalism, Dave Zirin is the sports editor for *The Nation* magazine. Zirin is a frequent guest on MSNBC, ESPN and Democracy Now! He also hosts the Edge of Sports Podcast for *The Nation*. His books include *Brazil's Dance With the Devil: The World Cup, The Olympics, and the Fight for Democracy*, *Game Over: How Politics are Turning The Sports World Upside Down*, *What's My Name Fool?: A People's History of Sports in the United States*, *Bad Sports: How Owners Are Ruining the Games We Love* and co-author of *The John Carlos Story*.

