Expert Knowledge for the Public Good.
About.

VISION
To be the most trusted media platform for academics and members of society to engage with ideas and solutions in the public interest.

MISSION
To promote truthful information and strengthen journalism by unlocking the rich diversity of academic research for the general public and decision-makers.

SHARED VALUES
We are committed to following these values in everything we do:
• Integrity, Truth and Transparency
• Quality and Excellence
• Diversity and Inclusion
• Collaboration and Respect
• Impact and Innovation

FUTURE
At a time when journalism and academia are under siege, The Conversation has ambitious plans to grow, and to strengthen both for the public good. In the next five years we will use our collaborative strength to democratize knowledge from thousands of more experts for millions of more people. We will deliver expert content in more ways and diversify our revenue so we exist for the long term.

Nine editions worldwide
- Australia (2011)
- UK (2013)
- US (2014)
- Africa (2015)
- France (2015)
- Canada (2017)
- New Zealand (2017)
- Spain (2018)
- Indonesia (2018)

Global Audience Reach

The Conversation US is part of a global network dedicated to unlocking the knowledge of researchers and academics around the globe to provide the public with clarity and insight into society's biggest problems.
By the Numbers.

**Growing Reads of Our Articles**

Includes readership on hundreds of websites under our Creative Commons license.

**Visits to The Conversation US Website**

**Facebook Fans, Twitter Followers and Newsletter Subscribers**

In 2018, we purged 15,737 newsletter subscribers for strict compliance with GDPR, the EU’s rules mandating explicit opt-in to email newsletters.

**Print Newspaper Republications**

(as tracked by BurrellesLuce clipping service)

In FY 2019 we were republished in print outlets in 44 states (as well as DC and the US Virgin Islands) with a total circulation of over 12 million.

**Number Of Academic Authors Over The Last Five Years**

**Member Institutions**

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<td>Founding Members as of 1/16</td>
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A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR AND GENERAL MANAGER

Five Years of Democratizing Knowledge.

Beth Daley
Editor and General Manager

After decades reporting on research from academia at The Boston Globe and other news outlets, Beth is delighted to run an organization that helps academics translate their important work into journalism in the public interest.

Dear Reader,

The Conversation US turns five years old this fall. This report highlights not only our achievements since our start, but also our mission’s growing importance and urgency.

We all sense that the tone of our national discourse is eroding and our ability to develop consensus with our fellow citizens is diminishing. A key reason is that many now find it difficult to put their trust in the kinds of information sources that have traditionally shaped how we, collectively, view our world.

Indeed, post-truth politics and deep-fake facts are flourishing. Objective and public interest journalism, long a powerful force in helping steer society toward the truth, is now seriously threatened. This is particularly true at the local level, where journalism staff have been decimated. Access to free-flowing, credible public information – something that has always been as fundamental to our society as access to clean water – is now restricted.

The result? It simply is harder to know what information in the public arena has genuine value or to reach agreement with our fellow citizens regarding what’s truthful. It has become even harder to effectively use available information for sound decision-making that supports our own best interests as well as the common good.

The Conversation is working to solve this problem. Academia remains an extraordinary engine of knowledge, insight, discovery and innovation that benefits the public. Journalism offers a way to get that knowledge to the general public through understandable, informative stories. At The Conversation, our editors team
The Conversation US • 2019 Annual Report

up with expert scholars to transform their research into journalistic content that has meaning for people everywhere – and also is firmly grounded in sound evidence.

This collaboration provides the public with clarity and insight from experts who best know the research to explain and solve society’s biggest problems. And we also explore those wonder-filled scientific, psychological and mathematical discoveries that make the mundane magical.

We are democratizing knowledge – and strengthening the flow of trustworthy, fact-based information to the public.

Our vision is to be the most trusted place for academics and the public to go to share research and ideas. We are now averaging about 8 million readers a month. We started with a staff of seven that has grown to 25. We have published more than 6,700 articles since we began.

A key piece of our nonprofit model is to give content away for free. The Conversation’s work is distributed by The Associated Press and is published in more than 700 local news outlets each month. You can read us in outlets as diverse as The Washington Post and Fox News and in many outlets that do not have the resources to produce the type of stories we provide.

Today, 61 academic institution members help fund our mission. We are deeply grateful to them, especially those founding members who have been with us since our inception. We are equally grateful to the many philanthropic entities and individuals who support our work with their generous financial backing.

Our vision is bold and getting bolder, thanks to our supporters’ help. We launched a video unit this year. We are addressing the urgent need for mentorship of underrepresented scholars whose voices are not heard nearly enough in the public square. We are exploring other avenues to unlock knowledge for the public including events and podcasts. We are working to grow and strengthen our diverse revenue base so we are sustainable for the long term.

I am honored to be the leader of The Conversation US as we reach the significant milestone of our five-year anniversary. I am particularly thankful to our current and former Board and leadership, the very talented Conversation US team, our founders, our international network and all of our supporters who have worked so hard to reach the success we enjoy today.

Please take a look at what we’ve accomplished in our first five years and where we want to go in the next five years – and beyond.

Thank you so much for reading,
Timeline.

2014
- 9/14: TCUS begins operations
- 10/14: TCUS begins publication
- 5-member Board of Trustees
- 4.7M PAGE VIEWS
- 74 REPUBLISHERS
- 6 EDITORS

2015
- New desks: Education, Energy + Environment
- 9-member Board of Trustees
- 20.6M PAGE VIEWS
- 155 REPUBLISHERS
- 8 EDITORS

2016
- 1/16 - 19: Founding University members
- Grows to 25 University members
- Atlanta office opens at GSU
- New desks: Religion + Ethics, Philanthropy + Nonprofits, Data + Math
- 60.3M PAGE VIEWS
- 304 REPUBLISHERS
- 12 EDITORS
Timeline.

2017
- New York City office opens
- 11-member Board of Trustees
- Boston office moves to NonProfit Center
- 70.2M page views
- 463 republishers
- 15 editors

2018
- 50 University members
- Heat + Light podcast launched
- 13-member Board of Trustees
- 87.2M page views
- 609 republishers
- 17 editors

2019
- 15-member Board of Trustees
- New video unit launched
- Development team expands
- 94.9M page views
- 696 republishers
- 18 editors
Our Finances.

TCUS established a significant source of new revenue in FY2019 – raising over $154,000 in donations from individuals during the year. And for the first time ever, we received nearly half our operating revenue from university memberships. Grants from eight foundations provided the remainder of our funding.

The key factor in what makes The Conversation a unique and indispensable part of America’s media landscape is our people. Personnel costs take up the lion’s share of our budget – 80% of our total expenditures are on staff salaries and benefits. Other significant budget expenses are our license payments for the TCUS’ technology platform and other technology expenditures, travel to conferences and universities, and outside talent that helps us with special skills like accounting, podcast production, marketing, public relations and fundraising.

Most of our expenses go towards recruiting, training, and then editing, publishing and distributing the content of our academic writers. We spend smaller amounts on fundraising and on managing the business affairs of The Conversation.
Development and University Relations.

Bruce Wilson
Chief Innovation and Development Officer

Bruce is one of the original staff who launched The Conversation in the United States. Previously, he worked 20 years at the Chronicle of Higher Education and the Chronicle of Philanthropy including seven years as publisher of both. He also spent over three years at NBC News as the director of higher education for NBC Learn in New York.

Dear Reader,

The Conversation US plays a vital role in improving public discourse by teaming professional editors with university scholars to translate academic research into accessible, relevant journalism.

Our model for creating and delivering evidence-based journalism has been so successful because it benefits so many.

Universities benefit because their scholars’ insights are shared with the public, helping them prove relevance and value, strengthen reputation and build goodwill.

Foundations benefit because The Conversation elevates public appreciation for the scholarly work that they sustain. The media benefit because we give them free, authoritative content, desperately needed in many resource-strapped newsrooms. And the public benefits because they can tap trustworthy, fact-based journalism that engages, stimulates curiosity and often is crucial to their daily lives.

Our membership now comprises 61 academic institutions. We have published the work of scholar-authors at more than 600 colleges and universities nationwide. We also are supported by some of the world’s most prominent foundations.

Our team is dedicated to unlocking the rich diversity of academic research for society at large – at a time when academe’s contributions are needed more than ever. We are committed to being one of the most important and impactful media organizations in the US and the world – and are very grateful to our academic partners, foundation funders and individual donors for believing in our mission.

Thank you for reading our report.
Academic Institution Members.

The Conversation US now has 61 members. While a researcher at any university can write for The Conversation, member universities receive special benefits.

Founding Members.

[Logos of founding member universities]
Supporting Members.
How The Conversation Works.

**STAGE 1:**
Research-based ideas

A scholar pitches The Conversation with an idea based on their research (or an editor reaches out to an expert). The editor commissions a story with specific instructions.

**STAGE 2:**
Collaboration between scholar and editor

The scholar writes the article and the editor coaches them on writing for the public. They go through a rigorous editorial process of revision to make sure the ideas are clearly expressed. The scholar gives final approval that the article accurately reflects their research.

**STAGE 3:**
Article is published

The article is published on TheConversation.com, gets featured in The Conversation’s newsletter and social media, goes out on the AP wire, and is highlighted in alerts to republishers.

**STAGE 4:**
Expert knowledge reaches the public

The Conversation publishes stories through a Creative Commons license that allows any outlet to republish them with proper attribution. Last year 696 outlets picked up our stories. A small sampling:

The logos are trademarks of their respective organizations.
Reputation and Audience Engagement.

Joel Abrams
Manager, Media Outreach

Joel ran social media strategy and launched vertical sites on Catholicism and technology for The Boston Globe. A widely respected online journalist, he has also worked in product management and editorial positions at The Christian Science Monitor, Lycos and CNN International.

Reaching our Audience.

Collaborating with academics on articles is only the first half of our work: the other part is getting these ideas to the public.

In addition to the growing audience on our own website, we release all our content under a Creative Commons license to be used for free by publishers across the United States and the world. Articles from The Conversation have been republished in all 50 states, in media outlets ranging from the biggest brands in news to small, local outlets in news deserts. Each story is also distributed by The Associated Press to its thousands of clients.

We reach readers across the ideological spectrum – the same article of ours has appeared both on Alternet (a left-wing news site) and Lifezette (a right-wing news site).

We’re in touch with hundreds of editors each day, suggesting stories that will be of interest to their audiences – and getting their feedback on what readers need to know. We are cultivating a growing audience of loyalists as well: The Conversation’s daily newsletter highlights our journalism as well as the best of our global colleagues.

We post links to Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for our followers. Our first podcast was featured on Apple Podcasts and TuneIn and our videos are watched on YouTube and Facebook.
Why I Write for The Conversation.

Stian Rice, Ph.D., Food Systems Geographer
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

“Working with The Conversation was exceptionally rewarding. The editors were responsive, thorough, and highly supportive throughout the writing process. **By the time my article was published, they had taken what I wrote and made it more like what I had imagined.** My article, ‘Convicts are returning to farming – anti-immigrant policies are the reason,’ attracted attention from numerous media outlets, including major radio and TV stations.

I highly recommend The Conversation for communicating important research to the public in an impactful way. I’m already looking forward to the next pitch.”

Elizabeth C. Tippett, Associate Professor, School of Law
University of Oregon

“One of the things that is so thrilling about writing about the workplace for The Conversation is that **you never know where a new article is going to lead.** Sometimes, that means witty comments from readers on Twitter, or stories from workers or companies that have been there. Other times, it means radio or video interviews. But it always provides instant feedback about the kinds of ideas that capture readers’ interest. And that tends to shape where my research goes next.”

Arash Javanbakht, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry
Wayne State University

“My first experience with The Conversation was a piece a colleague and I wrote titled ‘The science of fright: Why we love to be scared.’ That article was republished by more than 30 media outlets and followed by multiple radio interviews. Working with The Conversation editors has been a delight and taught me to communicate more efficiently with the general public.

Since then, The Conversation has helped me publish 10 more pieces and educate more than half a million people, each time followed by multiple TV and radio interviews. **I believe The Conversation has an immensely important role in connecting professionals with solid facts to the public.”**
Suzanne O’Connell, Ph.D., Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences  
Wesleyan University  

“On the 50th anniversary of the first scientific ocean drilling (SOD) expedition, I wrote an article for The Conversation to highlight SOD’s findings. Since before my first expedition in 1980, I’ve seen how sediments and rocks recovered through this research have changed our understanding of earth processes. Over 100,000 people read that article. Later, I wrote about a 60-day expedition to Antarctica’s ‘Iceberg Alley.’ The American Association for the Advancement of Science highlighted my article in their member newsletter. The Conversation helped me achieve my goal of informing the public about SOD’s significance.”

Tiffany Mitchell Patterson, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Secondary Social Studies  
West Virginia University  

“I teach future educators to embrace diverse viewpoints – and The Conversation brings that attitude to journalism. In my articles here, I’ve been able to address tough issues like slavery and allow the public to learn from my expertise. In these days when tweets substitute for facts, The Conversation needs your help to keep amplifying the reasoned voices of experts.”

Mark Massoud, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Politics and Legal Studies  
University of California, Santa Cruz  

“Through phone calls and many edits from a brilliant editor, I collaborated with The Conversation to disseminate themes from my research, both to the policy community and engaged public. The piece, ‘Don’t Blame Shari’a for Extremism – Blame Colonialism,’ helped educate people about the ways that Islamic law is used both to promote violence and to build peace, and how colonial history played an important role in limiting progressive versions of Islamic law. The piece garnered more than 13,000 page views and was translated for distribution in Indonesian. The original journal article is now the most-discussed on that publication’s website.”
Deputy Editors.

Emily Costello
Deputy Editor

Emily has worked in all types of media – from mass market fiction to kids’ science magazines to local news. Her passions are supporting endangered newsrooms and adding new voices to the public debate.

Last year, The Conversation produced content that was thought-provoking, surprising and essential for curious readers. In Politics + Society, we took a healthy step back from the press scrum to get some valuable perspective on President Trump’s rhetoric, his policies and how his leadership has divided American society. We also tackled criminal justice, women’s issues and immigration.

Our Economy + Business editors looked at changes to trade policy and taxation, the future of unions in the gig economy, evolving workplace culture and a Supreme Court decision that said it’s OK if trademarks make your granny blush. Our Education desk covered topics from violence in schools to freedom of speech on campus and who makes – and who breaks – the rules when it comes to access to higher education. We expand our coverage of Ethics + Religion and Nonprofits + Philanthropy by adding a new editor.

Our Arts + Culture section continued to produce stories worth pondering and discussing with friends. This year we also introduced new multimedia content to make the stories even more compelling.

All this, and have you seen our new Sunday newsletter?

Martin LaMonica
Deputy Editor

Martin’s journalism career has passed through Paris, Silicon Valley bubbles and MIT Technology Review in Boston, but his whole career he’s tried to do just one thing: report and edit stories that matter to the public.

In the past year, the newsroom has produced hundreds of articles that complement the news of the day and explain new academic research, particularly in the sciences, which is my area of responsibility. But we also make a priority of setting the agenda in the media.

One way we do that is by diving deep into certain topics that we believe are of great public interest – or just interesting. In the past year, we’ve produced packages of stories around certain themes, including the outsize role of plastics in our lives, how social media and technology are shaping our political discourse, marijuana, the effect of climate change on fisheries, and the anniversaries of Leonardo da Vinci’s birth and the Moon landing. We’ve also pushed ahead on our video offerings which are now a regular feature.
Science+Technology

Over the past year, we’ve published close to 450 stories by scholar authors, on topics that range from the smallest microbes living on your body to some of the biggest astrophysical questions in the universe. Our three editors have worked to link TCUS content to current events, for instance, increasing our coverage of information warfare and other cyber threats as well as the roles of tech companies in society, both good and bad. We’ve also commissioned scientists to use their expertise to explain aspects of everyday life – like what systems engineers know about the most efficient way to ride an escalator, or what a biogeochemist can tell you about what generates the dust in your home.

Editors.

Maggie Villiger
Senior Editor
Maggie’s favorite stories use her science journalism training to explore the curiosities of daily life – from how old a pet really is in dog years to why asparagus pee smells.

Jeff Inglis
Editor
Started out designing technology, but realized the world needed someone to help explain it.

Bijal Trivedi
Editor
Obsessed with the very small (microbes, viruses, molecules, genomes) and the very large (space travel and astronomy).

HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES

- Rotating black holes may serve as gentle portals for hyperspace travel
- Why you can smell rain
- Automated control system caused Ethiopia crash, flight data suggests
- Why is the Pentagon interested in UFOs?
- Parts of the Pacific Northwest’s Cascadia fault are more seismically active than others – imaging data suggests why
Ethics + Religion

Our stories have contributed to religion journalism in the United States through a highly expert and interdisciplinary approach, allowing The Conversation to contribute to the public understanding of faith, ethics and spirituality. In one series we explained the diversity of Islam, helping to combat Islamophobia. In another we covered the Catholic Church’s sexual abuse scandal, giving our readers new ways of understanding a complex issue. We started a new series where scholars tackle ethical questions such as whether eating meat is morally justifiable, or whether it’s ethical to use images of suffering to drive political change. We also held a workshop teaching scholars how to write for a broader audience at the American Academy of Religion, an annual gathering of 10,000 scholars.

Editors.

Kalpana Jain
Senior Editor

Kalpana Jain, an alumna of the Harvard Divinity School, believes that the world urgently needs religious literacy. The role of religion is crucial and needs to be understood and explained.

Catesby Holmes
Global Affairs Editor

Catesby was a travel editor and American expat before going to graduate school for global affairs. As Global Affairs Editor at The Conversation, she gets to keep a foot in both worlds as both journalist and internationalist.

HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES

Why Easter is called Easter, and other little-known facts about the holiday

Why do Muslim women wear a hijab?

What the grieving mother orca tells us about how animals experience death

Archbishop Oscar Romero was gunned down inside his own church 38 years ago. Soon he’ll become El Salvador’s first saint

Is it unethical to give your cat catnip?
Our desk had a busy year – 261 stories on everything from the Trump economy and Federal Reserve’s about-face on interest rates to #MeToo in the workplace and the FUCT trademark case before the Supreme Court. Last year we were able to hire an editorial researcher, who has made a big difference to the desk and helped us expand our output. That researcher is currently being trained as a junior editor. In January, we hosted a reception at the Allied Social Sciences Association annual conference, held in Atlanta, where we learned about new economic research and mingled with economists and other scholars who have written for us.

**Editors.**

**Bryan Keogh**  
Editor  
Bryan has covered economics in Beirut, London and Paris. Now, he covers economics all over the world from The Conversation’s New York office.

**Nicole Zelniker**  
Editorial Researcher  
Nicole came to work for The Conversation after graduating with her master’s degree in journalism from Columbia.

**HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES**

- **How winning $1.54 billion in Mega Millions could still lead to bankruptcy**
- **Why care about undocumented immigrants? For one thing, they’ve become vital to key sectors of the US economy**
- **How electric cars could make America’s crumbling roads even worse**
- **Why the global stock market crash doesn’t really matter**
- **What is a tariff? An economist explains**
Much has happened in the last year for the Arts + Culture desk. We covered the rise of hologram tours and air guitar competitions. After Christie’s auctioned off its first piece of AI art, we explored how these works should be considered art, as well as who should get credit for them. And we covered stories outside the news cycle, like a unique Danish word used to combat stress.

We were happy to receive a grant to cover an oft-overlooked treasure at many universities: their special collections. We ran a piece that included interviews with former Village Voice photographers who captured protests and riots in the 1980s and 1990s, and one on the eight years it took Maurice Sendak to develop “Where the Wild Things Are.”

**Editors.**

**Nick Lehr**  
Editor  
Nick has been The Conversation’s Arts + Culture editor since the organization’s halcyon days, when the entire staff was packed into a basement conference room at Boston University.

**Jonathan Gang**  
Editorial Researcher and Multimedia Producer  
Putting academia’s stories in motion through video, audio and more.

**HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES**

- The lies we tell on dating apps to find love
- A Danish word the world needs to combat stress: Pyt
- The Freddie Mercury story that goes untold in ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’
- New findings add twist to screen time limit debate
- How the new ‘Aladdin’ stacks up against a century of Hollywood stereotyping
The firehose of news emanating from the Trump administration kept the Politics + Society desk busy, as did that great democratic exercise, the biennial election. In 2018, our section produced 581 stories, including extensive coverage of the nation’s immigration policies and how they affected Central American migrants and an analysis of GOP women’s satisfaction with Donald Trump (it was high).

Among our writers were political scientists, sociologists and historians. One author, a professor of literature and classics, wrote a story about how the ancient Greek Stoics dealt with the complex politics and social problems of the day. While our stories covered a broad landscape, they all had the same purpose: to bring our readers a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Editors.

Naomi Schalit
Senior Editor

Naomi Schalit lasted two months working on a political campaign in the ‘80s and then realized she liked reporting on politics far more than doing it herself.

Aviva Rutkin
Data Editor

A science and technology reporter who relishes digging into spreadsheets to find the stories that no one else has.

HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES

Thousands of mental health professionals agree with Woodward and the New York Times op-ed author: Trump is dangerous

You’ll hear these 4 arguments in defense of the Electoral College – here’s why they’re wrong

Bolivia is not Venezuela – even if its president does want to stay in power forever

How Trump’s trade war affects working-class Americans

Why the $22 trillion national debt doesn’t matter – here’s what you should worry about instead
In 2018, the Education desk produced stories on a wide range of U.S. topics, from violence in schools to the dynamics of American teacher strikes, and from the debate over charter versus traditional public schools to issues of free speech on college and university campuses.

The Education desk has also produced a variety of parental advice stories on subjects ranging from how to develop your child’s talent to what to look for in a chess program. Articles by a diverse group of scholars have been republished in publications that include the Chicago Tribune and The Washington Post.

**Editor.**

**Jamaal Abdul-Alim**  
Editor

A former crime reporter, a world traveler and an avid chess player, Jamaal brings a wealth of diverse experiences to his approach toward education editing.

**HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES**

- State takeovers of schools are about political power, not school improvement
- Considering race in college admissions: 3 questions answered
- Here’s how to encourage more girls to pursue science and math careers
- When race triggers a call to campus police
- Multilingual learners doing better in US schools than previously thought
The Health + Medicine desk has fine-tuned its approach to covering health policy and the structural issues in society that lead to inequalities of care. We enlisted scholars with backgrounds in health insurance, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act, public health and public policy to delve deep into breaking news stories and recently published journal articles.

In addition, we expanded consumer health coverage in recognition of the need for fact-based medical stories. We covered the alleged benefits of drinking apple cider vinegar and new blood pressure guidelines, published a widely read sleep series featuring the latest sleep science research and explained vaccine science and e-cigarettes, two of the most important public health issues facing the country.

**Editor.**

**Lynne Anderson**
Senior Editor

Lynne couldn’t get enough of medical reporting and editing, so at 59 she went to Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism to get a master’s in science, health and environmental journalism.

**HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES**

- Overhydrating presents health hazards for young football players
- Is apple cider vinegar good for you? A doctor weighs in
- Why do paper cuts hurt so much?
- Fathers need to care for themselves as well as their kids – but often don’t
- Is exercise still important to weight loss? Absolutely, a doctor says
This year we published 271 articles with over 9.2 million views in more than 60 countries. We went beyond common environmental topics to cover subjects like urban policy, agriculture and deregulatory proposals from the Trump administration. Our most widely-debated article, on dairy industry emissions, was republished in outlets ranging from Business Insider to Beef Central.

Climate change is becoming increasingly central to our environment and energy coverage, as more and more evidence shows that it is having serious impacts. But rather than simply cataloguing the damage, we worked to spotlight realistic solutions and ideas that can help people and communities adapt to our changing world.

**Editor.**

**Jennifer Weeks**  
Editor

Jenny is equally concerned and awed by the scale of human impacts on the Earth, but she’s most interested in what can be done about them.

**HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES**

- The US natural gas industry is leaking way more methane than previously thought. Here’s why that matters
- Rural Americans’ struggles against factory farm pollution find traction in court
- 3 reasons why the US is vulnerable to big disasters
- 7.5 billion and counting: How many humans can the Earth support?
- Local, county and state governments are suing oil companies over climate change
We published numerous articles about the charitable world this year, complemented by dozens of pieces about foreign aid, safety net programs and other forms of giving. Much of this coverage explained how things work, such as why it’s so hard for museums and universities to take big donors’ names off their buildings and the commonly held belief that the nonprofits that spend less on overhead are inherently better-run. One of our most widely read articles in 2018 explained why the NRA’s financial health was showing signs of weakness. The author, Ohio State University accounting scholar Brian Mittendorf, subsequently was quoted at length about the gun group in a related article published in both The New Yorker and The Trace.

**HIGH-IMPACT HEADLINES**

- Fewer Americans are giving money to charity but total donations are at record levels anyway
- It can take a village to feed hungry kids in school
- One big problem with how Jeff and MacKenzie Bezos are spending a small share of their fortune
- The NRA’s financial weakness, explained
- The Trump Foundation is shutting down, but the president and his family still could face liability
The Conversation US benefits from the guidance and engagement of its Trustees, who bring a wealth of insight and wisdom based on their diverse professional and life experiences to their stewardship of our organization.
Foundations.

We are grateful to the foundations that support The Conversation US and who have made our work possible. They support our editorial independence and have no access to our editorial process or decision-making.
We’re grateful for the generosity of our donors.

$100 or More:


Up to $100:

Up to $100:

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