

From: Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA) <elena@judgewatch.org>
Sent: Monday, May 26, 2025 10:56 AM
To: 'beth.daley@theconversation.com'; 'bruce.wilson@theconversation.com';
'bryan.keogh@theconversation.com';
'martin.lamonica@theconversation.com';
'naomi.schalit@theconversation.com';
'emily.costello@theconversation.com'; 'us-editorial@theconversation.com';
'us-corrections@theconversation.com'
Cc: 'josh7759@colorado.edu'; 'laustin@tru.ca'; 'mjpowers@uw.edu'
Subject: **Your commissioned academic experts have NOT responded to primary-source, documentary evidence requiring corrections, revisions, and further scholarship with respect to their articles you have published**
Attachments: [cja-2-18-25-ltr-to-greene-carr.pdf](#)

TO: THE CONVERSATION

**ATT: Executive Editor & General Manager Beth Daley
Chief University & Foundation Relations Officer Bruce G. Wilson, Jr.
Managing Editor Bryan Keogh
Director of Editorial Projects & Newsletters Martin LaMonica
Senior Editor/Politics-Democracy Naomi Schalit
Director of Collaborations/Local News Emily Costello**

RE: [*"Trump and many GOP lawmakers want to end all funding for NPR and PBS – unraveling a US public media system that took a century to build"*](#)
(May 2, 2025 Conversation article by Associate Professor Josh Shepperd)
[*"Trump targets NPR and PBS as public and nonprofit media account for a growing share of local news coverage"*](#)
(May 6, 2025 Conversation article by Professor Matthew Powers)
[*"The attack on public broadcasting is part of a growing threat to press freedom and democracy"*](#)
(May 8, 2025 Conversation article by Assistant Professor Lorry-Ann Austin)

I am director and co-founder of the New York-based nonpartisan, nonprofit citizens organization [Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. \(CJA\)](#), with more than 30 years of interaction with New York and national media, including NPR, PBS, and other nonprofit media – and with academia. This is reflected by my above-attached February 18th letter to House DOGE Subcommittee Chair Marjorie Taylor Greene and FCC Chair Brendan Carr, which I sent to Professors Shepperd, Austin, and Powers expressly to advance their scholarship and, with respect to Professor Austin, expressly so that she could also correct her article.

My initial e-mails to them were:

- **my May 5, 2025 e-mail to Associate Professor Shepperd** --
"Your update of 'the official history of public broadcasting...for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and Current': NPR & PBS public editors & CPB's Inspector General"
- **my May 11, 2025 e-mail to Assistant Professor Austin** -- (to which Associate Professor Shepperd was cc'd)
"CORRECTION REQUIRED: Your May 8, 2025 article in The Conversation: 'The attack on public broadcasting is part of a growing threat to press freedom and democracy'"
- **my May 14, 2025 e-mail to Professor Powers** --
"Your May 6th article 'Trump targets NPR and PBS as public and nonprofit media account for a growing share of local news coverage' (The Conversation), published by the Albany Times Union".

I received no responses. Likewise, I received no responses to my subsequent correspondence to them:

- **my May 14, 2025 e-mail to Associate Professor Shepperd** --
"STATUS? Your update of 'the official history of public broadcasting...for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and Current': NPR & PBS public editors & CPB's Inspector General"
- **my May 16, 2025 e-mail to the Corporation for Public Broadcasting** -- (to which Associate Professor Shepperd was cc'd)
"STATUS? -- CPB's Stewardship of Taxpayer Monies -- Halting Funding to Poynter Institute, NPR, PBS, & NY's Local "Public Media", & Firing the CPB Inspector General - - All Mandated by CJA's February 18, 2025 Letter"
- **my May 20, 2025 e-mail to Assistant Professor Austin** -- (to which Associate Professor Shepperd was cc'd)
"STATUS? CORRECTION REQUIRED: Your May 8, 2025 article in The Conversation: 'The attack on public broadcasting is part of a growing threat to press freedom and democracy'"
- **my May 20, 2025 e-mail to Professor Powers** --
"GENTLE REMINDER: Your May 6th article 'Trump targets NPR and PBS as public and nonprofit media account for a growing share of local news coverage' (The Conversation), published by the Albany Times Union".

Is this acceptable to The Conversation? What does it say about the integrity of their scholarship that they have not responded? What do they deny or dispute – and on what

evidence? Certainly, their behavior corroborates what my [February 18th letter](#) had to say on the subject of press scholarship (at p. 8):

“...I have spent over two decades searching for ‘honest press scholarship’ – and have found none. ...

This nation’s universities, with their centers for media studies and journalism schools – all [tax exempt](#) and benefitting from federal grants predicated on their supposed unbiased, fact-based research...are, in fact, organs of propaganda about the media, including in promoting taxpayer supported journalism and tax-exempt non-profit journalism to which philanthropies and members of the public can make tax-free contributions. ...” (hyperlink in the original).

I am cc’ing Professors Shepperd, Powers, and Austin on this e-mail to accelerate their responses and – assisted by your journalists – the corrections, revisions, and further reporting mandated by the primary-source, documentary evidence furnished by my February 18th letter and e-mails as to the “*knowingly* false, corruption-abetting, election-rigging journalism” of NPR, PBS, and other nonprofit media, identical to that of for profit media, torpedoing our democracy.

I look forward to “conversation” with respect to the foregoing – and to appropriate action consistent with The Conversation’s exemplary [editorial guidelines](#). CJA’s menu webpage for the February 18th letter and its odyssey to date, as to which there has been NO press reporting nor comment by experts, is [here](#).

Thank you.

Elena Sassower, Director
Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)
www.judgewatch.org
914-421-1200
elena@judgewatch.org

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