

World Press Institute Fellowship 2018

Jenny Jännäri

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Summary in English

I was a World Press Institute Fellow in 2018 and spent nine weeks in the United States during August-October 2018. Four weeks of the program were spent in Minnesota, mainly in the Minneapolis/ St Paul twin cities area. For five weeks we toured major cities of The United States: Washington D. C., New York, Miami, Austin, Chicago, San Francisco and Denver.

The themes for the 2018 program were: Midterm Elections 2018, Journalism in the Trump Era, Immigration and Nuclear Threats and Security. We were nine fellows this year, coming from Argentina, Brasil, Bulgaria, Finland, India, Malaysia, Myanmar, Portugal and Russia.

During the program all fellows wrote weekly blogs on the themes of the program. They can be read on the WPI website: <https://worldpressinstitute.org/blog-news/>

Touring major cities of the United States is already in itself an amazing experience. For me it was especially interesting to visit cities I hadn't been to before, such as Miami, Austin, Chicago and Denver.

All of the program's themes were acutely important and interesting. To my surprise I found nuclear threats and security the most intriguing as I hadn't really followed the topic at all lately. Now I got a thorough briefing of the subject and perhaps learned things I would rather not have known.

The time spent in Minnesota was also rewarding in many ways. I would probably never have visited the state were it not for the Fellowship. It would have been a shame. As always, the kindness and generosity of the American's who hosted us was unforgettable.

Visiting the African-American Museum in Washington D.C. was a stunning experience and one of the highlights of my trip. I suggest it be added to the official program. It's a must see for anyone interested in the history of USA and the world in general.

Getting to know my international colleagues was obviously one of the big positives of the trip. It was eye opening in many ways.

Living in hotels for nine weeks wore us all out and there were unnecessary tensions between some of the fellows. I think a few didn't realize what they had signed up for. Dealing with strange conflicts robbed energy that would have been needed for other things.

Still I found the program totally worthwhile. I believe the whole impact of my experience will hit home in the course of time. The WPI Fellowship will give me "food and thought for future years", as the poet William Wordsworth put it.