

POYNTER INSTITUTE

OVERVIEW:

The [Poynter](#) Institute describes itself as “the world’s leading instructor, innovator, convener and resource for anyone who aspires to engage and inform citizens in 21st century democracies.”

- The Institute offers personalized coaching, hands-on seminars, and interaction online courses for anyone interested in journalism.

Founded by Nelson Poynter, former chairman of the St. Petersburg Times as the Modern Media Institute.

- Original purpose was to act as a small journalism school.

CONNECTION TO GEORGE SOROS AND LIBERAL GROUPS:

According to the Poynter website, the institute’s **International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)** [receives funding](#) from Google, the Omidyar Network, the National Endowment for Democracy, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Park Foundation, and George Soros’ Open Society Foundations.

- **Open Societies** [donated \\$300,000](#) to the International Fact-Checking Network in 2017.

The **Omyidar Network** was founded by liberal eBay founder Pierre Omidyar and gave a **\$1 million** grant to Poynter’s International Fact-Checking Network.

- The network has [partnered](#) with Soros several times in the past including on development issues in Africa.
- **Pierre Omidyar** personally [gave \\$100,000](#) to an anti-Trump super PAC in 2016.

The **Craig Newmark Foundation**, an organization founded by Craigslist founder Craig Newmark, is also a significant donor to Poynter.

- In December 2016, the foundation [donated \\$1 million](#) to Poynter.
- Newmark is a well-known **Hillary Clinton donor**.
- At the time, it was the largest individual donation Poynter had ever received and came immediately following the formation of the IFCN.

A seminar with Poynter [instructed](#) journalists to downplay the harm of radical Islam by comparing it with the death tolls to things like malaria, HIV/AIDS etc.

POYNTER INSTITUTE AND FAKE NEWS:

In [October](#) 2017, Google [partnered](#) with the IFCN to increase the number of “verified fact checkers in the world,” expand the code of principles into new regions, and offer free fact-checking tools, citing IFCN as a “nonpartisan organization.”

Facebook uses a code produced by [the IFCN](#) to guide its fact-checking organization.

- Fact-checking groups partnering with Facebook must sign on to the code of principles that includes a promise to be neutral in their checking.

The network puts on a yearly fact-checking conference and is a leader in training “fact checkers” for various organizations.