

Behind the Lens: Inside Photojournalism

From October 8th to October 11th
The Factory, DocksDora | Turin, Italy

4 Days of Immersive Mentorship, Practice & Inspiration
With: Fabio Bucciarelli, Manu Brabo, Bulent Kiliç
Guest: Damiano Rizzi/Soleterre, Emilia Astore/ Amnesty International

Introduction

This four-day intensive workshop in Turin offers a unique opportunity to immerse yourself in the world of contemporary photojournalism, documentary photography with a particular focus on conflict and humanitarian storytelling. Led by three internationally acclaimed photographers—**Fabio Bucciarelli, Manu Brabo, and Bülent Kiliç**—the program is designed to help participants develop both a personal vision and a professional approach to visual storytelling.

Throughout the workshop, participants will be guided through the entire creative process, from the initial conception of a photographic story to its execution in the field, with special attention given to editing, sequencing, and building a cohesive and impactful body of work. The program also offers an overview of the various contemporary outlets available for photojournalists today—not only traditional editorial platforms, but also photobooks, exhibitions, festivals, and artistic circuits.

The structure of the workshop is dynamic and collaborative. Each day will be divided between plenary sessions involving all three instructors and smaller working groups, in which participants will rotate among the mentors to receive diverse perspectives and personalized feedback. Field assignments in the streets of Turin will allow for the development of new stories in real time, while those who wish to focus on a work-in-progress will have the chance to refine and expand their projects under expert guidance.

Key themes will emerge naturally through practice and discussion: ethics and responsibility in conflict reporting, the role of fixers and logistics in the field, the realities of freelance life, and strategies for navigating today's editorial and artistic markets. There will also be space to reflect on audience engagement, community building, and the evolving future of independent visual journalism.

Each day will feature a *Lectio Magistralis* delivered by one of the instructors, offering an intimate look into the philosophies, long-term projects, and personal experiences that have shaped their careers. The workshop will also address the practical realities of field journalism, with a particular focus on its psychological dimensions. This includes two special guest sessions featuring **Damiano Rizzi**, founder and president of the NGO *Soleterre*, and **Emilia Astore**, head of Human Rights Education at *Amnesty International Italia*. Drawing on decades of field experience, they will explore often-overlooked topics such as mental health, conflict-related and post-traumatic stress, and how collective educational practices can serve as powerful tools to build resilience and raise awareness in contexts marked by systemic violence—ultimately contributing to long-term social transformation. These sessions are designed to inspire reflection and deepen understanding of the human, political, and ethical challenges inherent in this line of work.

*This workshop is open to photographers of all levels, from passionate amateurs to experienced professionals, who wish to deepen their storytelling skills, confront real-world challenges, and gain meaningful insights into the practice of photojournalism today. **To ensure a focused and high-quality environment, participation is limited to 20 people.***

DAY 1

WHERE STORIES BEGIN

09:30 - 10:30

Welcome Breakfast

An informal meet & greet moment to connect with participants and faculty over coffee and croissants.

10:30 - 11:30

Workshop Introduction

Presentation of the program, philosophy of the workshop, and key objectives. Led by the three instructors.

11:30 - 13:00

Group Division & Assignment Brief

Participants will be divided into three working groups. Each group will work with one of the instructors to discuss possible story ideas, receive a tailored assignment, and define an initial approach.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 18:00

Fieldwork Begins

Participants go out to shoot individually or in small groups, based on their assigned projects. Faculty will remain available at the base for one-to-one meetings, portfolio reviews, or guidance upon request.

18:30 - 20:00

Guest Talk: Bülent Kılıç

Bülent will present his powerful work from the Middle East, reflecting on his 16 years as a staff photographer and his transition to freelance. He'll speak candidly about the pros and cons of being embedded in a news agency, and what it means to reclaim independence.

DAY 2

CRAFTING THE NARRATIVE

10:00 - 11:30

Plenary Session

All participants meet with the instructors to discuss challenges encountered on the first day. A collective space for questions, advice, and redirection.

11:30 - 13:00

Group Work

Back in the original groups, each instructor works closely with their students to review the first set of images, offer feedback, and help structure the next steps of their story.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 18:00

Fieldwork Continues

Participants return to the field to keep developing their stories. Instructors remain available at the base for reviews and mentoring as needed.

18:30 - 20:00

Guest Talk: Manu Brabo

Through Manu's work in various conflict zones over more than 15 years, we will explore the different challenges this profession presents—from the agency perspective to the personal one—highlighting the inevitable coordination and cooperation between writer and photographer when working for major newspapers, where the text often sets the pace of the story.

DAY 3

EXPANDING THE VISION

10:00 – 12:00

Guest Talk: Damiano Rizzi / psychologist, psychotherapist, and founder of the NGO Soleterre

An expert in emergency psychology, Rizzi will address the psychological impact of war, focusing on trauma, PTSD, and the importance of dialogue and human connection over isolation. He will also share practical strategies to cope with vicarious trauma, and highlight the value of psychological support before, during, and after a journalistic assignment.

12:00 – 13:00

Group Rotation

Each group is now paired with a different instructor to offer a fresh perspective and new input on their ongoing projects.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 18:00

Fieldwork (Final Shooting Day)

Last day to shoot on location. Participants push their stories further, applying previous feedback.

18:30 - 20:00

Guest Talk: Fabio Bucciarelli

Fabio Bucciarelli shares his journey from agency photographer to photojournalist and author. Drawing on over fifteen years of work in conflict zones, he will reflect on the role of photojournalism today, the evolving landscape of editorial publishing, and the new challenges that lie ahead.

DAY 4

EDITING & STORY SHAPING

10:00 – 12:00

Guest Talk: Emilia Astore/Amnesty International Italy

In contexts marked by systemic violence and armed conflict, educational practices are vital tools to build resilience and raise awareness among affected communities. For journalists, understanding the importance of human rights education and critical storytelling is crucial to moving beyond surface-level reporting. This approach helps reveal the underlying structures of violence and injustice, fostering more nuanced, responsible narratives that contribute to long-term social transformation. This talk explores how combining journalism with educational and community engagement can empower both reporters and the communities they cover, ultimately promoting deeper understanding and lasting change.

12:00 – 13:00

Planary Editing Sessions

Participants begin the editing process, working with each instructor to select, sequence, and refine their images. Focus on narrative clarity and visual coherence.

13:00 - 14:00

Lunch Break

14:00 - 17:30

Final Editing & Project Completion

Each participant finalizes their selection to produce a cohesive short photo essay. The faculty offers support in layout, captioning, and conceptual framing.

17:30 – 19:00

Final Reflections & Open Discussion

A final open discussion wrapped up the three-day workshop, where participants reflected on the process, shared insights, and raised new questions

21:30 – LATE

Final Party

A celebration to close the workshop together—music, drinks, laughter, and shared stories.
