



GianAngelo Pistoia <gianangelo.pistoia@gmail.com>

Integrazione domande per intervista

GianAngelo Pistoia <gianangelo.pistoia@gmail.com> 1 gennaio 2024 alle ore 09:31
A: kennethrosen@proton.me, kenneth.r.rosen@gmail.com

Gentile Kenneth,

anzitutto auguro a te ed alla tua famiglia un sereno e proficuo 2024.

Allego a questa e-mail un elenco di domande per l'intervista. Ho integrato quelle che ti avevo proposto la scorsa settimana con alcune nuove domande. So che sono domande semplici e non filosofiche ma devo tener conto del target culturale dei lettori a cui i miei articoli sono rivolti.

Qualora tu abbia particolari riflessioni anche complesse da fare sulla tua vita quotidiana, sulla tua attività professionale e anche su tematiche generali desidererei che tu le esternassi scrivendole a "ruota libera" in aggiunta alle risposte delle domande che ti ho posto. Estrapolerò da queste tue riflessioni gli argomenti che riterrò interessanti da pubblicare.

Ti ringrazio per la tua collaborazione e disponibilità.

Ciao.

GianAngelo

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GianAngelo Pistoia <gianangelo.pistoia@gmail.com>

Risposte domande per intervista

Kenneth R. Rosen <kennethrosen@proton.me> 3 gennaio 2024 alle ore 12:59
A: GianAngelo Pistoia <gianangelo.pistoia@gmail.com>

Ciao GianAngelo,

comprendo le tue motivazioni. Ecco le risposte alle domande che mi hai inviato per l'intervista.

Auguro anche a te un sereno 2024.

Kenneth

- Why did you choose to be a freelance journalist?
There was something romantic about contributing to various publications, having my byline appear in different magazines and journals and newspapers over several weeks, having the latitude to write what I wanted in the style I wanted and for whom I wanted. But this is really just the work of any creative person; my outlet's genre just happens to be journalism.
- You were also able to be a journalist thanks to the support of prestigious international foundations. Do you want to talk to me about it?
I'm grateful to all the institutions that have supported me over the years.
- Why did you choose to live in Italy?
When my wife and I were expecting our first child, we decided to move to her childhood home in Feltre. I was traveling a lot for work, mainly in the Middle East, and it made more financial and logistical sense to relocate. We also wanted our child to speak Italian and have the experience of living abroad, closer to some of our relatives whom are scattered across Europe.
- The escalation of conflicts in various parts of the world has once again brought to light the importance of direct testimony from the front. The work of journalists is fundamental, but not adequately protected. What is your opinion?
My work has been financially supported by the various organizations you mention, but rare is the support that goes beyond cash. There are numerous support groups for independent journalists working in remote and hostile environments: they provide trauma first aid training, share personal protective equipment like bulletproof vests and helmets, offer credentials and legal aid. But the responsibility of personal care and protection always falls on the individual when that person is not affiliated with the staff of a publication. While many outlets rely on those freelance dispatches, they should but do not assist beyond compensation for the article. If you are stranded or hurt as a freelance journalist, you are often on your own. This makes the work much more fraught. Given the nature of the publishing and media industries, the liability for publications is too great to risk; but there are few avenues through which independent journalists may feel protected.
- Current conflicts have also highlighted the pervasiveness and power of propaganda in influencing international public opinions. What do you think about this?
We as a global society are becoming more fractured. If there is a way to educate the broader public in media literacy, I'm not sure I know how. It is a fearful time when misinformation and disinformation are, at times, the primary outlets of influence for millions.
- In 2024, do you intend for the American media to "cover" conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine?
At present I'm focused on a brewing conflict in the High North and what an Arctic conflict may mean for the world.

- Why did you decide to also be a writer?
I'd say that I am a writer who practices journalism.
- Why did you decide to write "Troubled: The Failed Promise of America's Behavioral Treatment Programs"?
I had wanted to write a memoir about my time in so-called "tough love," but the draft wasn't working. Writing the book instead as a nonfiction narrative account of four children who went through similar programs, and chronicling what became of them into early adulthood, was a more effective approach. It allowed for a universality of the detriments caused by the programs.
- How was your adolescence?
Complex, like any adolescence.
- "Troubled" is a book criticizing the American (re)educational system. Has the situation in the United States improved since the release of your book?
Unfortunately, no. The industry continues to promulgate misleading studies about the effectiveness of non-evidence-based treatments. Programs proliferate. And activists who are working to reveal the problems within those programs speak only into an echo chamber.
- Bulletproof Vest" and "Troubled" have been received by critics and the public?
Well.
- You are now writing a book about the Arctic for Simon & Schuster which will be published in 2025. Can you tell me something in advance?
The reporting and writing for the book has taken me to the Arctic regions of six countries, with the exception of Finland and Russia. I've embarked with the U.S. Coast Guard and Norwegian Coast Guard, and have taken part in training for conscripts within the Swedish Armed Forces. I recently returned from a nearly a month spent on both the west and east coasts of Greenland and will soon embark for Alaska and the Canadian Northwest Territories.
- The rapid development of artificial intelligence is influencing all aspects of daily life. How do you see this development in relation to your work? As a threat or instead an opportunity to be exploited?
I don't pay AI much mind when it comes to my work. You can't replicate in cyberspace with artificial intelligence what journalists undertake on the ground.
- What advice would you give to a young person who now wants to pursue a career as a journalist or writer? What mistakes should you avoid and what are the important things to focus on?
Quickly accept rejection as a constant, as part of the daily work. And never relinquish your seat time. Always be writing and reading and, when doing neither of those, listening.
- Are you inspired by anyone to be a war journalist and writer? Do you have a favorite quote or author?
Luke Mogelson and George Orwell, for both modern and classic examples. Portraying conflict at great personal risk comes through in their writing.
- If you had to describe yourself with just one word, what would it be?
Flawed.
- You lived in Feltre for a few years and now you live in Turin. Do you like Italy? What opinion did you form of Italians?
«Italy is a fine place for a young man, a writer no less, to raise a family. As Lincoln Steffans wrote: «Italy is the best place in the world for a father to have his children in. ... I advise any man about to become a father to go to Italy...»
- If you are invited by schools or local cultural associations, are you available to come to the Triveneto to illustrate to their members your life experiences and also your future professional aspirations?
Absolutely.