# Computer-Assisted Reporting
# BOOT CAMP
## *Seminar*

September 16-19, 2019 Seattle, Washington | October 12-15, 2019 College Park, Maryland

**Day 1**

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|---|---|
| 9 - 10:15 a.m. | Introduction to seminar and overview of Computer-Assisted Reporting |
| 10:30 a.m. - Noon | Introduction to lab and spreadsheets: How to navigate spreadsheets, use formulas a sort to find information quickly |
| Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch  - on your own |
| 1:30 - 3 p.m. | Using spreadsheets for stories: More on formulas and calculating percentages, rates and ratios to find stories |
| 3:15 – 5 p.m. | Spreadsheet exercises: Using filters and pivot tables to analyze data quickly |
| 5:15 – 7 p.m. | Optional Open lab |

**Day 2**

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| 9 - 10:30 a.m. | How to find and negotiate for data: We'll discuss ways to find what data exists and gather it more quickly using online searching and public records techniques |
| 10:45 a.m. - Noon | Review, group exercise in Excel |
| Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch – on your own |
| 1:30 – 2 p.m. | Intro to SQL: The basics of writing a Structured Query Language query |
| 2 – 3:30 p.m. | Using database managers for stories: Learn to filter larger datasets using exact and wildcard matches |
| 3:45 - 5 p.m. | Database exercises: More practice filtering and using aggregate functions in SQL |
| 5:15 – 7 p.m. | Optional open lab |

**Day 3**

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| 9 – 10 a.m. | SQL review |
| 10:15 a.m. - Noon | SQL joins: COnnecting two relational tables using a SQL query |
| Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch – on your own |
| 1:30 – 3:45 p.m. | Enterprise joins: Finding matches in two databases that weren't made to go together |
| 4 – 5 p.m. | Building your own database & importing into SQLite: The best practices and pitfalls to avoid when building your own dataset |
| 5:15 – 7 p.m. | Optional open lab |

**Day 4**

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| 9 a.m. – Noon | Problem solving: converting pdfs, SQL cleaning, Excel cleaning, Google Sheets scraping |
| Noon - 1:30 p.m. | Lunch |
| 1:30 - 2 p.m. | Story ideas |
| 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. | Final group exercise: Finding stories in campaign finance data |
| 3:30 - 4 p.m. | Bulletproofing your work: How to make sure your data project is solid from start to finish. |
| 4:15 – 5 p.m. | More data tools demos, review, questions IRE memberships, how to take it all back home |

*This schedule is subject to change.*